



HB2154
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

February 6, 2020

9:15 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees offer the following **COMMENTS** on HB2154, which seeks to address the potential impacts of commercial aquarium collection on our nearshore fisheries, by prohibiting the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes regardless of the manner in which such aquatic life is taken. OHA appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments to clarify the definition of “aquarium fishing.”

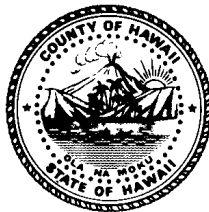
As a preliminary matter, OHA appreciates this measure’s intent to address concerns shared by many of its beneficiaries regarding the impacts of the aquarium collection industry on our nearshore resources. OHA notes that Native Hawaiian subsistence communities have long voiced concerns over the impacts of commercial aquarium collection on subsistence resources they rely upon, and have even successfully advocated for regulatory prohibitions and protections with respect to commercial aquarium collection on the West Coast of Hawai’i Island. OHA is also aware of longstanding concerns from beneficiaries in other regions, including in Ko’olaupoko, O’ahu, with regards to commercial aquarium collection in Kāne’ohe Bay. Even with the relatively recent court-ordered injunction that has enjoined aquarium collection in West Hawai’i as well as aquarium collection using fine-mesh nets and traps throughout the islands, certain subsistence community members and other beneficiaries have continued to raise concerns regarding the continuation of commercial aquarium collection activities throughout the islands. Accordingly, OHA appreciates the intent of this measure to address the concerns of its beneficiaries and others.

With regards to the current draft language of this measure, OHA notes that the definition of “aquarium purpose” may inadvertently include any holding of live aquatic life for sale for any purpose, including, potentially, the holding of fishpond products. The “for sale” portion of the “aquarium purpose” definition may also be redundant with the subsequent definition of “commercial.” Accordingly, should the Committees choose to move this measure forward, OHA respectfully recommends amending the language on page 3, lines 11-12, to read as follows:

“of captivity as pets, for scientific study, or for public exhibition or display.”

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

February 4, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2154, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2154, relating to environmental protection. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes regardless of the method of collection. Commercial capture of the State's reef wildlife for sale to the aquarium pet trade does not balance our nature, and is against sustainability of our ecosystem. We must preserve the State of Hawai'i's natural resources for the benefit of us all. The harvesting of aquarium life from our reefs harms our ecosystem. Regardless of the method of harvesting, most aquarium fish do not survive. Our aquarium ecosystem is already struggling and we should be working to sustain our ocean ecosystem instead.

For the reasons I stated above I urge the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, the Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2154
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 2154 proposes to prohibit all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes that opinions range with respect to what Hawai'i public policy should be regarding aquarium fishing.

The Department has managed the Hawaii aquarium fishery for sustainable commercial use based on science and monitoring and uses a variety of management tools including gear restrictions, size and bag limits, catch reporting, and in West Hawaii, Fishery Management Areas.

The Department also recognizes that threats to Hawai'i's coral reefs and its fisheries, both for aquarium fish and for food fish, are growing, due to unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, marine debris, marine invasive species, and climate change with its attendant ocean warming and associated coral loss due to bleaching.

The Department recognizes that there may be reasons to prohibit commercial aquarium collection based on cultural or social values. The Department has required aquarium permit applicants to analyze the cultural impacts of aquarium collection as part of their Environmental Impact Statement prior to issuance of any aquarium permit. At this time, the Department takes

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

no position on whether there are cultural impacts that would warrant a total ban on all commercial aquarium collection.

The Department notes that it is unable to effectively enforce bag and size limits with fishers not clearly identified as commercial fishers, without needed statutory authorization to do administrative inspections of fisher catch and gear. This limitation contributes to illegal fishing practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:02:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Silva	Waialua Boat Club	Oppose	No

Comments:



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Wildberger, and the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee

TO: Honorable Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Todd, and the Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs Committee Members

SUBMITTED BY: Heather Carpenter, Western Regional Director, The Humane Society of the United States, hcarpenter@humanesociety.org, Tel: 702-929-2999

In SUPPORT: HB2154 Relating to Marine Aquarium Fishing

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) supports HB2154 prohibiting all commercial capture of Hawaii's aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. We deeply thank the Committee for addressing this important matter that affects the lives of at least 200,000 marine animals per year.

The Global trade in wild animals as pets—including fish for display in home aquaria—involves billions of animals every year. The trade threatens the survival of wild populations and causes unacceptable treatment of the animals. This thriving industry feeds on consumer demand for rare and beautiful animals. Whether small carnivores, exotic birds such as parrots, reptiles, amphibians, or fish, few species are safe from this exploitive trade.

The global trade in marine fish involves between 20 and 24 million individual animals, 99 percent of whom are wild-caught (Wabnitz et al. 2003). High levels of mortality of marine fish in the aquarium trade, associated with inadequate handling and transport, have been widely recognized as a problem (Cartwright et al. 2012; Wabnitz et al. 2003).

Hawaii aquarium fish catch reports for 2018, for example, document fish mortality rates of 3% between capture and dealer purchase (DAR 2018). Trade members report an additional 9% die in holding and within 3 days of transport from Hawaii to dealers in North America (Cesar, 2002; American Marinelife Dealers Association, 1997). These transport related losses are repeated throughout the supply chain. Within 2 weeks of arrival at a retail location, an additional 11% will have expired (Cartwright et al. 2012). This means that nearly 30% of the fish captured die before reaching the end consumers who are typically novice aquarium hobbyists.

Lacking the skills necessary to properly care for this wildlife, the husbandry needs of wild marine life captured from Hawaii reefs simply cannot be met in captivity in hobby tanks.

Individual stressors may not kill these animals immediately, but their effects accumulate and result in significant losses. 80% of saltwater fish deaths in home aquariums stem from practices within the supply chain (Cartwright 2012). Those practices, implemented to save time and money, contribute to the stressors and injuries that lead to the premature deaths of this wildlife and put undue pressure on wild populations: for every animal that dies before reaching the market, more are taken to fill the demand.

In addition, we are opposed to these practices because they are cruel and unnecessary given that less harmful alternatives exist that don't cause injury and contribute to premature mortalities. Examples include piercing fish swim bladders instead of slow decompression, starving for extended periods of time prior to export instead of increasing shipping bag water volume, and fin/spine trimming instead of packing in puncture-proof containers.

The trade and hobbyists, alike, treat fish like cut flowers to be displayed until they die (often of starvation), then discarded and replaced. The capture and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease.

Fish in the aquarium pet trade suffer from unacceptably high death rates. The marine life captured in Hawaii deserves better treatment than what they are currently receiving. When the basic needs of captive animals are being met, their long-term survival is ensured. This is not so for fragile reef wildlife, with the vast majority of these animals experiencing temporary, not long-term survival. Though many, such as the yellow tang, would survive for decades in the wild, the lives of most in captivity are measured in weeks or months. Contributing to these shortened lives, are the inexperienced hobbyists purchasing them, most of whom stay in the hobby, on average, only a year before giving it up.

This raises the question of suitability for a life in captivity and brings us back to a premise stated earlier in this testimony: capture and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease.

The Humane Society of the U.S. thanks the Committee for taking up this important issue. ***We urge the Committee to pass HB2154***, to protect Hawaii's coral reef wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:24:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Friese	Marine Rescue & Resoration Management	Support	No

Comments:

As a born & raised citizen of Hawaii for over 50 years I find it ridiculous this Bill has yet to pass. Being blessed to grow up on Portlock Beach on East Maunalua Bay, a favorite pastime of our childhood was jumping off Portlock point and exploring the marine life. It was full of Uhu (Parrot Fish) and all the colorful herbivore fish cleaning the dark lava underwater wall. By High School (Punahou '81 to '85) the divers trending off the sumerged reefs & wall collectig anything that moved. By the time I came back after college the depletion of our natural resources was noticable. Today the Uhu of yesterday are long gone & will never return. All the colorful reef fish have been captured to the point of no return. I have since moved to Paiko Beach which suffers from the same problem. Portlock, Maualua Bay is now a dead zone as the reefs suffocated from evasive algae and seaweeds with no cleaner fish.

For all those that use a sustainability study excuse..... Maunalua Bay, Portlock Point both used to have more fish than Hanauma Bay. No hard to do the math.

How can we have killed off the entire ecosystem of Maunalua Bay which once flourished? Our children now get staff infections snorkeling instead of enjoying Hawaii's once natural environment.

Paul Friese
Hawaii Kai

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:23:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Fernley	Coral Fish Hawaii	Oppose	Yes

Comments:



February 4, 2020

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Hearing Time: 9:15AM

Regarding: HB 2154 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2154 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HFACT is a not-for-profit, IRS 501c(5) organization, that advocates for small boat commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishermen throughout Hawaii. HFACT board members sit on a number of federal fisheries management and endangered species advisory committees as well as state marine and coastal zone advisory committees; and, HFACT is thoroughly familiar with and participates in ocean and marine resource management in Hawaii and the central Pacific.

HFACT **OPPOSES** the intent of HB 2154 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The state has shown commitment to sustainable fisheries and this bill is counter to the state's efforts to support sustainable use of marine resources. The aquarium fish collection fishery in Hawaii has been shown, via peer-reviewed scientific studies, as being sustainable.

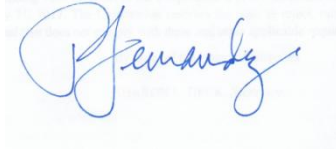
HFACT believes that fisheries management decisions should be based on peer-reviewed science, stakeholder involvement, and guidance from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and its field biologists. If peer-reviewed science shows that strict management protocols need to be implemented, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has many statutory mandates to implement such management rules, simply put HB 2154 is unnecessary.

***Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
75-796 Hiona Street, Holualoa HI 96725***

The construction of Hawaii's fisheries statutes, rules, regulations and policies should be made primarily on the basis of the best peer-reviewed scientific and commercial data available. The careful evaluation of scientific evidence is fundamental to the management of all natural resources. The State should strive to make every effort to utilize scientific advances that improve our ability to understand nature and its processes. HB 2154 flies in the face of fisheries management best practices. The Legislature should not legislate how a particular fishery is managed, rather the Division of Aquatic Resources is well equipped the aquarium collection fishery.

HFACT thanks the chair, vice-chair, and committee members of both committees for this opportunity to provide comment and to assist in the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

Sincerely and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Fernandez", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Phil Fernandez
President

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:50:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elise Fernley	Coral Fish Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I feel the total shutdown of aquarium fish collection is unnecessary and the science proves it. I do believe bag or catch limits should be imposed for certain fish, and the fees for permits should be increased so that it can be more selective. Studies have repeatedly shown that aquarium fish collection is a very small percentage of the total fish percentage caught. Too many people get caught up in the hype (misinformation) certain activist, who have a vested interest in saltwater fish, spew out. We have schools, grandparents, parents and kids who can't me to our shop to see and/or learn about the fish. Many nearby schools come here for a tour because the don't have the means or funds to get to the Waikiki aquarium. Many people appreciate and want to protect the ocean and it's inhabitants because they have a love for the fish. And, it started with seeing fish in an aquarium. Also, not everyone who likes saltwater fish is able to go out snorkeling or diving to see the fish! There are many people here on this island and elsewhere who depend on us. I oppose this bill!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:38:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul West	Tropical Marine Centre Ltd	Oppose	No

Comments:

05th February 2020

Dear Sir

Ref: **Testimony in OPPOSITION to House Bill HB2154 relating to Environmental Protect**

Tropical Marine Centre is Europe's largest and oldest importer of ornamental marine animals for use in the Aquarium trade. We have a long association with the **Hawaiian ornamental industry** and have been a strong supporter of a humane, sustainable and ethical aquarium trade for over 40 years.

Tropical Marine Centre was a founding supporter, data provider and financial sponsor of **UNEP –WCMC's Global Marine Aquarium Database (GMAD)** as well as being a founding member of the **Marine Aquarium Council (MAC)** and became one of the first certified livestock operations in Europe. Tropical Marine Centre maintains a close relationship with our own Government's Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs and assists with the training of CITES Wildlife Inspectors in the United Kingdom in respect of identification and handling of CITES listed corals species.

Through the collecting operations in both O'ahu and in particular Kona which supply Tropical Marine Centre, we strongly oppose HB2145. We represent a hobby that fully supports and promotes a sustainable fishery in Hawaii and one that benefits and supports the livelihoods of people of Hawaiian descent. Our

industry further supports all efforts by the Hawaiian Ornamental Aquarium Industry to provide supporting evidence for continuing this sustainable and responsible trade in Hawaii, through Environmental impact studies and cultural assessments, and time should be given for these to report fully on their findings.

It is important for all stakeholders to note that the Hawaiian marine collecting businesses supplying Tropical Marine Centre already conform to the highest standards of best practice in our industry and this is reflected in the very high quality and condition of collected Hawaiian fish, and the low mortality both during transport and post transport to the UK. These mortalities are typically less than 0.1 -0.3% for the long journey from the Pacific, and the onward survivorship in our aquariums, with our retailers and with the hobbyist is very high.

The iconic status in our hobby of many unique species from Hawaii such as the Yellow Tang signposts not only the economic importance of Hawaiian species in our trade but also the love, appreciation and dedication to the keeping of these animals by a world-wide hobby that shares an investment with the peoples of Hawaii in sustaining their success and survival in both the wild and in captivity. In so doing the Ornamental Aquarium Industry keep these iconic animals in the consciousness of a much wider public and add to the scientific knowledge so needed for their future survival, both in the wild and in aquariums, for future generations to enjoy.

Tropical Marine Centre already consider the aquarium fishery in Hawaiian to be one of the best managed and regulated of all the 42 collection areas we work with worldwide. The cessation of a sustainable and low impact trade of highly -valued marine animals from Hawaii will remove livelihoods from skilled people of Hawaiian descent and focus trade away to other countries which do not benefit from the same level of scrutiny, oversight and regulation already applied to the collection of animals for the ornamental aquarium industry in Hawaii.

Yours sincerely

Paul West BSc. Hons(Zool./Mar. Zool.)

Managing Director

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:00:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:40:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very important for the safety and health of our reefs and our island state.
Please pass this bill!!



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768
(808)871-7947 Main (808)877-3104 Fax

Testimony to the

[COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION](#)
[COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS](#)

[SUPPORT HB2154](#)

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 9:15 A.M.
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Representative Lowen & Yamane and Vice-Chair Representatives Wildberger & Todd along with members the committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, my name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 23 years, it has been my honor to serve the Activity & Attraction industry of Hawaii through my position as the Executive Director of A3H (Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii). A3H represents nearly 150 businesses statewide. Our members range in size from very large (over 300 employees) to very small (1-2 employees) aggregated well over 1500 employees/Hawaii residents. A3H's purpose is to support the sustainability of Hawaii businesses, the environment, and our communities.

Hundreds of thousands of marine animals are taken from Hawai'i's reefs to serve as aquarium pets. Many die in the process. This is all despite the 2017 Hawai'i Supreme Court Ruling that led to the invalidation and prohibition of aquarium permits and without the court ordered environmental review.

DLNR is allowing the aquarium trade to harvest as long as they aren't using prohibited gear. There are **no limits on the numbers** of marine animals that can be taken.

Hawai'i residents along with many repeat visitors and tour operators which include snorkeling and scuba diving operations have long called for a complete end to the trade for decades because of environmental impacts. It is also in conflicts with local and cultural values. Please stop this non-sustainable depleting practice.

Sincerely,

Toni

Toni Marie Davis
Executive Director

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:39:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Bray	Coral Fish Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. A complete ban on the ornamental fish trade in Hawaii is absolutely absurd. I have been working in the industry for 5 years now and have kept aquariums since I was a child. This is my only source of income as it is for a lot of other people in the business and if this bill were to go through a lot of people would be left unemployed. It's hard enough as is being able to afford the cost of living but taking away the main source of income for many local families will force them to relocate elsewhere. I believe the trade is sustainable and with careful monitoring it can thrive. I believe possibly even expanding some marine sanctuaries will allow the fish populations to thrive while allowing some areas to remain open with the help of species specific regulations to make sure they aren't being overfished. Annual or biannual collection zoning can help in making sure wild fish populations aren't depleted.



February 4, 2020

To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair, and Members of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
And
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair, and Members of the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Re: **HB 214, to protect aquarium fish**

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 9:15 a.m., Room 325

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and Members of the Committees,

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC – was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawaii environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean – namely, the pollution of our near-shore environment by sunscreens that are literally killing our marine life. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, plus bills on cesspools, plastic marine debris, the climate crisis and sea level rise.

HIROC strongly supports this bill, which would protect coral reef fish from the aquarium trade. The coral reefs that protect Hawaii's shorelines are in crisis! They face assaults from rising ocean temperatures, increasingly acidic oceans, sewage and polluted runoff, sunscreens and depleted fish stocks. Coral bleaching and death are widespread. One way Hawaii can help the reefs be more healthy is to ban the taking of fish for commercial aquarium purposes.

The science of ecology teaches that natural habitats are integrally interrelated. Harvesting large numbers of fish for sale for commercial aquarium purposes is not sustainable or pono; it harms the natural balance that sustains the health of coral reefs and the many types of marine life that depend on healthy reefs. This bill is thus a critical step toward protecting the coral reefs that protect our beaches, recreational economy and shorefront (including homes) from erosion and intense storms.

In addition, the colorful fish being taken for commercial purposes are part of the public trust for all people to enjoy in Hawaii, not for commercial extraction for profit and shipment around the world.

The need for this bill is critical. Our reefs already show great damage. We must begin major efforts to stop the damage and help them recover. Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Alan B. Burdick, on behalf of HIROC, 486-1018
Burdick808@gmail.com

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:38:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members. It is long past time for this action which has been proposed and discussed for over a decade. Let's finally stop draining Hawaii's natural resources so some entity can profit financially for a hobby. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo

Mike Moran for KCA

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:12:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Nakachi	Moana Ohana	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Aina, Malama Aina, Malama Momona all cornerstones of tradidiotnal and customary Hawaiian practices. Long ignored and long forgotten in this particular commercially, \$ driven, extracive and destructive trade to our public trust resources. Nuff already! end this trade in Hawaii for future generations. Do the right thing and pass this bill for all the people of Hawaii!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:15:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Schacht	Green Divers Productions	Support	No

Comments:

I write as a 30+ year diver, Divemaster, and videographer with more than 300 logged dives since 1986 off Lanai, Maui, Big Island, Molokai and Oahu. The aquarium trade may regard my testimony as anecdotal, but my dive logs, photos, and videos, year after year, are similar to others with comparable 'on the reef' real time experiences: There has been a horrible, devastating decline in pristine reef habitat and in the numbers of different species of wild reef fish typically encountered on dives.

There is no justification for any further commercial removal of wild reef fish from the state's reef systems. It should be stopped immediately. DLNR should be authorized to severely fine violators, as well as have its budget increased to fund a meaningful enforcement presence where aquarium trade poachers are operating. Violators' vessels should be subject to confiscation, if found guilty of serious violations.

Hawaii it appears is on the leading edge of climate change. Viable reef systems are going to be vital. This bill removes one major threat to the reefs. We strongly support it.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:10:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian J Fitch	Tropical Warehouses Inc	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

Livestock from the islands of Hawaii are both cherished and relied on by members of the aquarium trade and hobby. Thousands of home aquarists care for animals collected in Hawaii and these fish and invertibrates are some of the best ambasidors that nature can offer to educate and raise awareness of the importance, husbandry and beauty of our natural environment.

Home aquarists and the industry that relies on them dedicate vast amounts of time and money in order to further our understanding of the oceans and marine life. The animals collected in Hawaii are renouned for being collected and handled in ways that do not adversely impact the environment.

As both a hobbyest and memeber of the aquarium trade I would like to testify that Hawaii marine life sets the highest existing standard for the health and responsible husbandry of any source for marine livestock coming to the mainland United States. By limitting or eliminating the collection of livestock the standards set by the incredibly dedicated people who provide this livestock to my business would be lost.

Hawaii leads the way as an example of how to treat the animals with respect. All sources for marine life for the aquarium trade will become worse without the leadership and example of the excellent people working in the aquarium industry in Hawaii

I understand that thousands of dollars have been spent developing HEPAEIS's for the fisheries in Hawaii and these documents should be considered.

Sincerly,

Ian Fitch

Tropical Warehouses Incorporated



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Relating to Environmental Protection
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB2154 Relating to Environmental Protection**, which prohibits all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

The commercial capture and sale of aquarium fish goes directly against creating a sustainable ecosystem. Commercial capture adds to overfishing and the depletion of natural resources, disrupts and negatively impacts our ocean ecosystem. The State needs to put protections in place to prohibit this extreme pillaging of our ocean.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:07:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tish Rothwell	The Pet Depot	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony Opposed to HB 2154

2-6-20 9:15 am Room 325

We need the aquarium fishery to collect species for researchers, public aquariums, breeding programs, monitor areas no others go, continue the fisheries long term management relationship with DLNR (the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources) and maintain potentially susceptible at jeopardy species in aquariums to [ensure the survival](#) of those species for our next generations. Our small 1-2% catch sustainable fishery provides valuable state income for fishermen, inspectors, researchers, airlines, and stores worldwide and aquarium manufacturing jobs.

We are currently working with major renewable energy federal researchers wanting to utilize quick growing Hawaiian seaweeds as a renewable energy source. Our vast highly renewable ocean resources should be utilized sustainably not banned.

Impacts of the [aquarium fishery](#) have been studied for over 40 years with constant management and thousands of fish counts. Recently the [5-year report to the legislature](#) by Dr Bill Walsh was done and submitted with new data on the fishery. The fishery is sustainable! Fishery takes are well below maximum sustainable 25% yield with an estimated take of only 1 to 2 %.

An Environmental Review (complete [EIS Environmental Impact Statement](#)) of 490 pages was done and is now completed. Same results the fishery is sustainable with little impact to both the environment and the Hawaiian culture. Hawaii's aquarium fishery is the [most regulated fishery](#) in the world.

Without a scientific doubt the fishery is sustainable. But still user groups based in *user conflict* over the ocean want the fishery closed. For them Science is not considered, intentionally ignored or distorted. The reason for their request asking for a closure of the fishery is for personal gain. They want to be the only ones who can show Hawaii's fish with snorkel and dive charters for a profit.

[Leading Marine Scientists](#) and the State of Hawaii has agreed many times that the aquarium fishery is a "Model Fishery" (Suzanne Case DLNR head 2019 Legislature) and a desired fishery due to the fact it keeps fish alive, provides jobs, fishery education, ecology and can contribute to science and species preservation!

How were the fish populations in 2019? We did not see the Biblical fish bloom of 2015, but we did see nearly as many. It was a great year for fish in 2019. One of the biggest fish drops for many species ever! Currently working on a video to be released soon.

Luckily the tropical reef fish mostly respond favorably to warmer temperatures by increasing spawning. Even our opposition agreed in the news [there are more fish than ever](#). Fish breeders commonly uses warmer temperatures to stimulate fish breeding with reef fish producing 10,000 to 5 million fry per spawning and multiple times a year. [Marine reef fish are amount the most renewable resources on the planet.](#)

Impacts need to be addressed for individual species and fishermen need to work with state agencies for fluid adaptive conservation. This is already being done.

After having aquariums for 45 years, there is one thing I have learned is that fish are able to acclimate to environmental chemical changes. Compared to global warming aquarium ecosystem changes can be drastic and rapid. Fish can still survive with pH, salinity, oxygen level, temperature and other water quality issues. "The Solution to Pollution is Dilution". Nearshore ocean temperatures run off and pollution can affect fish. Luckily deeper waters have nearly all the same species and you do not see coral bleaching or pollution affecting deeper reefs. Fish and corals can repopulate quickly and abundantly.

Thanks for your time and consideration in Opposing HB 2154,

Mary Tubbs Ecology active Teacher

"Global Warmings Benefits for Hawaii's Reef Fish Populations".

It is happening again late 2019, report from several divers, face book posts and video from the East, South West and North shores confirms huge numbers of reef fish on Hawaii's reefs, east, north and south all seeing big baby fish numbers, warmer temps in 2014 and 15 were recorded and fish then also bloomed, not just reef fish but their predators also increased in population. Video post and more videos soon. Exciting to see lots of reef fishes. Fish tend to breed more and produce more during warm temperatures. Many fisheries breeding fish use warmer waters to entice fish breeding.

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs/>

Certain algae help Kaneohe Bay corals weather warmer seas

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/01/27/hawaii-news/certain-algae-help-kaneohe-bay-corals-weather-warmer-seas/>

A unique algae may be helping corals at Kaneohe Bay become more resilient to climate change, but the algae might also cause the corals to eat less, according to a study by University of Hawaii researchers.

'Super-corals' found in Kaneohe Bay give researchers a glimmer of hope

"Much to our surprise, there are a huge number of corals that are naturally growing in Kaneohe Bay that are very tolerant of higher sea water temperatures and more acidic waters."

<https://www.kitv.com/story/40496627/super-corals-found-in-kaneohe-bay-give-researchers-a-glimmer-of-hope>

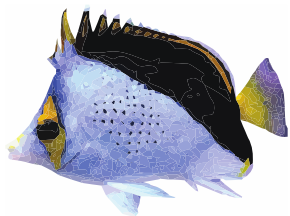
Coral reefs in West Hawaii showing signs of recovery

<https://www.khon2.com/news/coral-reefs-in-west-hawaii-showing-signs-of-recovery/>

Great Barrier Reef Is In Much Better Shape Than Climate Alarmists Claim, Australian Environment Minister Confirms

<https://www.thegwpf.com/great-barrier-reef-is-in-much-better-shape-than-climate-alarmists-claim-australian-environment-minister-confirms/>

The Great Barrier Reef is not dead, is not dying and is not even on life support, federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley has declared after her first official visit to the World Heritage-listed site.



Tropical Fish Emporium LLC

PO BOX 725, Kaneohe, HI 96744

tel: (808) 222-7559 email: ryan.tfehi@gmail.com

Rep. Lowen, Rep. Yamanae and all Committee Members,

I am writing today in **opposition** of HB 2154.

This bill has been written in interest of protecting the environment, but on what grounds? For years scientists have proved that aquarium fishing has no adverse impact on the environment. Years of data and research by several leading marine biologist have shown that fish populations have remained steady or increased in certain areas.

I employ several people from fisherman, packers, maintenance personal and drivers. Because of this fishery, I and other exporters are able to provide hundreds of local jobs and bring money into the state of Hawaii. Passing this bill forward and ignoring the facts will put these hundreds of people out of work and take money out of our economy.

After the supreme court ruling in 2017 the aquarium fishery has spent thousands of dollars completing a HEPA EIS for the fishery. We ask that these documents be allowed to come to light before a drastic decision such as HB2154 be continued forward in the house.

I ask that this bill that is based on pure emotion and not facts be voted no on.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rothwell

Owner

Tropical Fish Emporium LLC

Testimony Regarding HB2154

Gregory P. Asner PhD

ASU Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science
Hilo, Hawai'i

4 February 2020

I submit the following testimony regarding **Bill HB2154** to “prohibit all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection”.

I am a marine and terrestrial ecologist with 30 years of experience working and living in the Hawaiian Islands. I hold Bachelors, Masters, and PhD degrees in engineering and biological sciences, and I am currently the director of the ASU Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, based in Hilo, Hawai‘i. I also serve as co-director of the Hawai‘i Marine Education and Research Center, based in Hilo and Miloli‘i. My credentials include leading the Allen Coral Atlas – the largest coral reef monitoring program in the world, leading the Global Airborne Observatory based in Hawai‘i and operating in close support of DLNR, and running the largest reef science program on Hawai‘i Island in collaboration with DLNR-DAR and the University of Hawaii. I have more than 600 peer-reviewed scientific publications and am one of the few practicing scientists in the State of Hawai‘i who is an elected member of the United State National Academy of Sciences. My testimony is based on extensive scientific experience and evidence specific to coral reef and reef fisheries in the State of Hawai‘i, but especially on Hawai‘i Island. I work with the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources Administrator, Brian Neilson, as well as his staff stationed across four islands, including the DAR-Kona Office.

There has been much debate, and an equal amount of confusion, regarding the impact of the commercial aquarium industry on coral reef ecosystems and fishery in Hawai‘i and across the State of Hawai‘i. Much of the confusion has been driven by the often limited amount of field-based oversight of the fishery over the years, largely limited by financial and human-resource constraints imposed upon the DAR monitoring program, which has been under-staffed both from scientific and programmatic standpoints for more than two decades. This fact, combined with a steady postering and re-postering by aquarium collectors, has made it difficult to generate policy that is science-based, actionable, and enforceable.

In parallel, the ecosystem in question –Hawai‘i’s reefs and fishes – has undergone radical change over the past ten years. These changes have, in effect, altered the baseline status of Hawai‘i’s reefs to the point that arguing over the sustainability of aquarium fish collections is now largely mute from an ecosystem sustainability and resilience standpoint. Based on the best science, aquarium and other commercial, non-subsistence activities benefiting relatively few people yet broadly impacting coral reef and fishery resilience no longer has a valid place in Hawai‘ian waters.

THE NEW OCEAN CLIMATE

Like many regions of the world, the Hawai‘ian Islands have entered a new ocean climate regime that is less favorable to coral reefs as a whole. As a result, building resilient coral reefs must be a focal point for resource management to give reefs the best chance for persistence. In 2014 and 2015, the Main Hawai‘ian Islands underwent their first major system-wide ocean climate event, called a marine heatwave, that caused increased water temperatures resulting in large-scale coral bleaching and impacts on fish and invertebrate populations (Bahr et al. 2017; Couch et al. 2017). About half of the corals that bleached in 2015 ultimately died and became algal covered

(Kramer et al. 2016). The 2019 marine heatwave again engulfed the Hawaiʻian Islands, causing up to 50% coral bleaching in some areas, and an average of 10% mortality (*forthcoming report, ASU GDCS, 2020*). Marine heatwaves are the new norm, and will be increasing in intensity and/or frequency in the years to come (Frolicher et al. 2018), putting enormous additional stress on coral reefs of Hawaiʻi.

A pivotal issue determining the ability of Hawaiʻi's coral reefs to persist in the new ocean climate rests in the abundance and diversity of the herbivore fish community. Herbivore fish are primary determinants of reef algal cover, which competes directly with slow-growing corals for space. Regular marine heatwaves not only cause coral bleaching and mortality, they also promote algal growth that colonizes dead coral and responds well to increased water temperature (Jessen et al., 2013; Graham et al., 2015). Herbivore fish biomass and diversity have become critically important combaters of algal growth during and between marine heatwave events.

In a scientifically-acclaimed global analysis and synthesis, Graham et al. (2015) found that the probability of a reef switching from a coral-dominated to an algal-dominated system was more than 50% when herbivore fish biomass dropped below 100 kg per hectare (1 hectare = 2.5 acres). Importantly, the probability of a regime shift from coral to algal domination decreased to 20% - a key target threshold for management - at an herbivore fish biomass level of 250 kg per hectare (Figure 1).

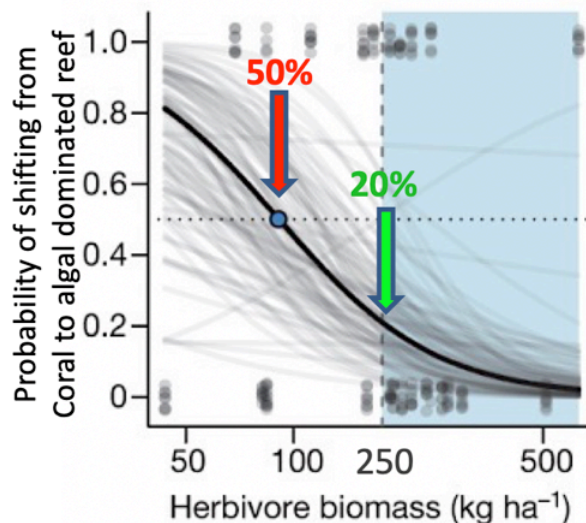


Figure 1. Effects of herbivore fish biomass on the probability of a reef switching from coral to algal dominated during and immediately after a marine heatwave (Graham et al. 2015).

Based on State of Hawaiʻi DLNR-DAR shallow water fish survey data, current herbivore biomass levels vary enormously just along the coast of West Hawaiʻi (**Figure 2**). Among 72 sites included in this 2018 survey, 21% are near or below the super-critical 100 kg per hectare threshold for a 50:50 chance of coral-to-algal domination caused by a marine heatwave. Approximately 64% of sites are currently near or below the critical 250 kg per hectare threshold for a 20% chance of coral-to-algal change from a marine heatwave. Only 19 of 72 sites (26%) are well above this

guiding 250 kg per hectare minimum for good herbivore fish management. Numerous countries and jurisdictions are using the 250 kg threshold as the target for increasing reef resilience in the new ocean climate. However, West Hawai'i's reefs are not currently in such a state and are not well prepared for repeated marine heatwaves from an herbivore fish standpoint.

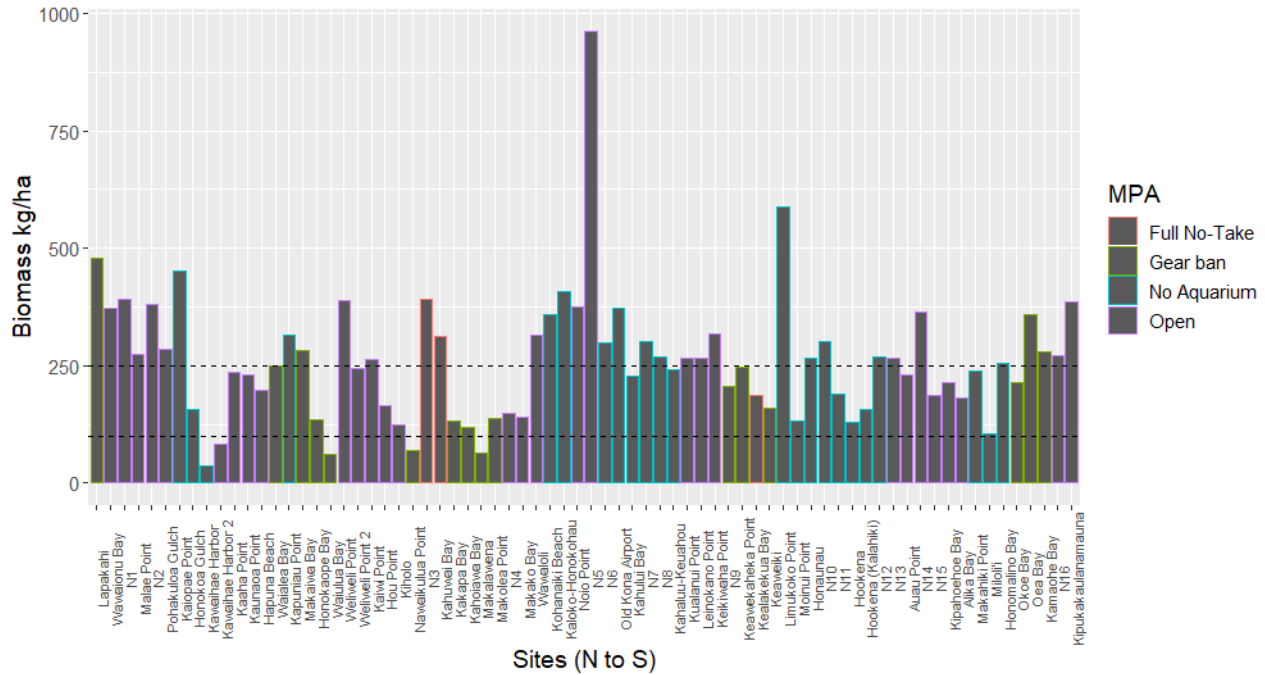


Figure 2. Herbivore biomass in kg per hectare across 72 sites surveyed in 2018 in West Hawai'i. The dashed lines indicate the 100 and 250 kg per hectare levels, the 50% and 20% probability thresholds that Graham et al. 2015 identified. The protection status of each site is indicated in the legend.

Beyond marine heatwaves, development in Hawai'i has rapidly expanded over the past two decades, resulting in numerous additional stressors to the reef ecosystem (Gove et al. 2019). These include nitrogen-rich effluent from both commercial and non-commercial wastewater discharge and over-fishing. In 2017, for example, West Hawai'i released a total of 680 million gallons of effluent per year and a total of 400,000 pounds of nitrogen per year (Gove et al. 2019). Our recent study of the shallow water fishery indicates that the two main sources of resource fish decline from 2008 to 2018 (including four species on the aquarium White List) are nitrogen-rich effluent from onshore disposal sites and commercial fishing. Importantly, non-commercial fishing was not correlated with observed long-term declines in fish biomass in shallow water habitats (*ASU-GDCS report, in press-2020; available upon request*). Only commercial fishing was statistically linked to herbivore fish declines.

In accounting for the new ocean climate regime with an increasing number of regional stressors, it has become clear that a new approach to the management of coral reefs in Hawai'i, including the interactive role of herbivore fish and corals, is paramount to their near- and long-term survival. Whether the aquarium industry can guarantee that herbivore fish biomass levels remain

above the critical 250 kg per hectare threshold is highly unlikely, but such levels of management will be needed moving forward to ensure that Hawai'i's reefs remain intact and biologically productive.

FISH RESOURCE TRENDS AND REPORTING

Much of the confusion about the impact of the aquarium industry rests in the scientifically inappropriate methods of fish observation as well as inappropriate statistical analysis and reporting of aquarium White List fish populations trends. The DLNR-DAR West Hawai'i Aquarium Project (WHAP) surveys are, unfortunately, often used in making arguments for or against the aquarium industry. The WHAP surveys represent the same 25 study sites surveyed annually from 1999 to 2018. These WHAP sites were originally established to monitor different protection levels – Marine Protected Area (MPA), Fish Replenishment Area (FRA), and Open or unprotected – in order to determine the effectiveness of protected areas on aquarium fish species. The WHAP data are not spatially representative of West Hawai'i because they are not taken from randomly selected sites. This is a critically important issue that renders use of these data highly suspect and unlikely to pass serious scientific review. In fact, the majority of the survey sites lie within marine managed areas and thus WHAP surveys do not accurately represent fish populations across all of West Hawai'i, especially since FRAs and MPAs have extremely limited coverage.

While the DAR WHAP data continue to be misinterpreted and misused, there exists a multitude of reports on Hawai'i fish biomass trends, available online at <https://dlnr.Hawaii.gov/dar/reports/>. For example, a report by Walsh et al. (2018) presents the continued, long-term decline of coral reef biota and associated fauna at key sites in West Hawai'i. This report notes major declines in fish abundance between the two survey periods, ranging from a slight relative decline in Yellow Tang (-9%) to an enormous decline in Achilles Tang (-97%); Both are two key aquarium fish species. The report also includes information on aquarium fish abundance. **Table 1** below (Table 6 in Walsh et al. 2018) shows major declines for most aquarium fish species.

Table 1. Abundance (#/100m²) of the top ten most abundant aquarium fish species at Puako and Pauoa. Collection rankings were based on FY 2009 aquarium data. The standard error for 2007-2008 surveys is included in Appendices 3 and 5. Δ is the numerical change in density and Δ (%) is the percent change between the two study periods. Species whose abundances have increased at one or both sites are shown in bold. Table 6 from Walsh et al. (2018).

Species	Puakō				Pauoa			
	1979-81	2007-08	Δ	% (Δ)	1979-81	2007-08	Δ	Δ (%)
<i>Zebrasoma flavescens</i>	9.89	9.01	-0.88	-8.9%	5.86	6.73	+0.87	+14.8%
<i>Ctenochaetus strigosus</i>	21.00	8.14	-12.86	-61.2%	29.04	8.53	-20.51	-70.6%
<i>Naso lituratus</i>	2.54	0.43	-2.11	-83.1%	0.91	0.29	-0.62	-68.1%
<i>Acanthurus achilles</i>	0.89	0.03	-0.86	-96.6%	0.36	0.06	-0.30	-83.3%
<i>Forcipiger flavissimus</i>	1.45	0.44	-1.01	-69.7%	1.24	0.21	-1.03	-83.1%
<i>Acanthurus nigrofuscus</i>	21.13	4.23	-16.9	-80.0%	31.68	5.63	-25.93	-82.2%
<i>Chaetodon multicinctus</i>	3.56	0.49	-3.07	-86.2%	4.22	0.46	-3.76	-89.1%
<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>	0.52	0.04	-0.48	-92.3%	0.52	0.05	-0.47	-90.4%
<i>Ctenochaetus hawaiiensis</i>	0.03	0.04	+0.01	+33.3%	0.00	0.03	+0.03	na
<i>Centropyge potteri</i>	2.68	0.18	-2.50	-93.3%	2.33	0.04	-2.29	-98.3%

Here, the top ten most collected aquarium fishes declined at both sites, except for Yellow Tang, and that aquarium fishing likely contributed to these declines. It is also stated that additional aquarium fish species are not included because of extremely low abundance and the inability to make any meaningful conclusions on changes in abundance over time.

In addition to these more localized findings, shallow water resource fish surveys from 2008 to 2018 conducted by DAR across numerous randomly-selected sites, and analyzed by my team, show enormous fish declines over the past ten years (**Figure 3**).

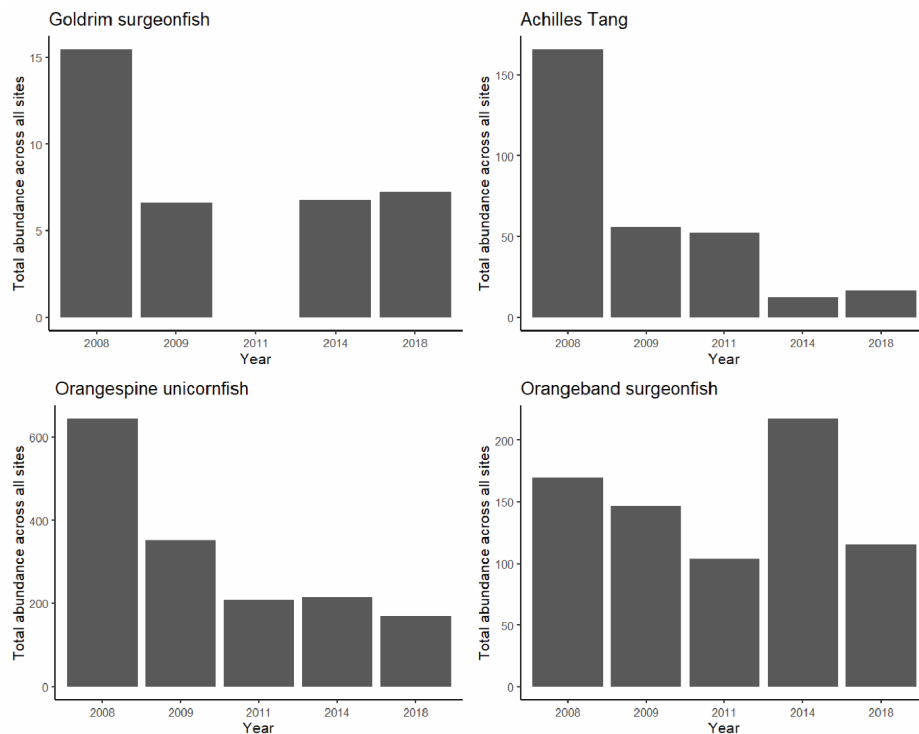


Figure 3. Fish biomass for four aquarium species surveyed between 2008 and 2018 in the shallow water resource fish surveys conducted by DAR.

CORAL REEF DAMAGE

A large body of scientific study indicates that making contact with the reef, especially its corals, generates major negative impacts on all aspects of reef condition (Rubec et al. 2001; Barclay and Berkes, 2017; Nichols et al. 2018; Gove et al. 2019). The question then becomes whether or not aquarium fish collectors make physical contact with the reef via their equipment and their bodily movement.

Reports from the public and the conservation community broadly point to common and persistent issues of aquarium collector contact with the reef. Our scientific observations of areas frequented by collectors also indicate areas of increased smashed coral, “troughing” for mesh fencing, staking, and finning. Hard data are challenging to generate since the aquarium industry maintains a semi-clandestine culture and does not offer opportunities for third-party oversight. Nonetheless, numerous photos have been taken of aquarium collector methods in Hawai‘i, which reveal divers making direct contact with live corals. The photos below provide a few examples taken from West Hawai‘i embayments (photos courtesy of Paul Cox).

The aquarium industry makes no commitments regarding third-party oversight of collector activities, and goes as far as to suggest that there is no impact from collection on corals or reef structure. Physical, biological, and chemical damage needs to be documented and prevented. Mitigation of reef damage after it occurs has proven to be both financially prohibitive or ecologically unviable (Jokiel and Naughton 2001). Prevention is the only scientifically and financially sound pathway, either by strong *in-situ* oversight of the industry or via banning of collections.



I sincerely hope that my testimony is deemed useful in confirming the need for HB2154. Our scientific studies, combined with our long-term field observations, strongly indicate that the aquarium industry, as well as other commercial reef-use industries, are a major threat to coral reefs in the Hawai‘ian Islands, particularly in the new ocean climate regime within which our reefs have now fully entered.

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HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:36:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT MILLER	Sea Dwelling Creatures	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it may Concern,

As a marine scientist it is my humble opinion that concrete scientific data should always be the basis for resource management decisions. With respect to the marine aquatic resource of Hawaii, the data seems to be undeniable and clear.

The fishery being targetted in this bill has spent thousands of dollars to conduct HEPA EIS's and unequivocally demonstrate that their actions are NOT impacting the fish populations in an adverse fashion. Management of the Hawaiian marine aquatic resources has, according the data, actually resulted in a a net growth of the fish populations, proving that this is a sustainable fishery with no discernable impact on the environment.

Passing this bill would be overtly ignoring the science surrounding the issue and would adversely impact the economies of the fishery as well as the native Hawaiian populations engaged in this lawful fishery.

Given the time, effort, and investment into conducting proper scientific research, it would be truly tragic to pass bill HB 2154. It is my sincere hope that this testimony will be considered.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

Robert Miller



To: Honorable Chair's Lowen and Yamane, Vice-chair's Wildberger and Todd, and House Energy and Environmental Protection, and Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee members, Feb. 06, 2020, 9:15 am, Rm. 325

Re: **HB2154 in SUPPORT**

For the Fishes supports HB2154, prohibiting the commercial capture of Hawai'i's marine life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. We sincerely thank the Committees for considering this critically important matter that affects all who live in Hawai'i.

This measure is urgently needed now because:

- Climate change is already a crisis for Hawai'i's coral reefs. We are no longer living in normal times, as far as our reefs are concerned: we are living in uncharted territory.
- In normal times, Hawai'i reefs experienced mild ocean heat waves about once per decade and coral bleaching was mild to non-existent.
- In the new paradigm, since 2014, we've been hit with an unprecedented three ocean heat waves. Each one caused major coral bleaching and coral mortalities.
- Per the 4th National Climate Assessment, within the next 15 - 20 years, these events will increase in frequency, until they occur every year. This will lead to the loss of 70% of Hawai'i's coral reefs by mid-century – especially if we stand by and do nothing to increase their ability to withstand and recover from these events.
- One important way to curb the destruction of Hawai'i's reefs is to increase the abundance of important fish groups, such as herbivores, which keep algae in check and prevent it from overtaking stressed corals. Herbivores are key for coral reef survival.
- DLNR addressed this issue last summer, in the midst of a the third bleaching event in 5 years, by asking fishers to stop taking herbivores, and leave them on the reef, though they are important food fishes for Hawai'i families.
- But the aquarium trade primarily targets herbivores and historically in West Hawai'i, for example, they take 1.8X more reef fish than are taken by all food fishers, combined. And, DLNR allows them to take these herbivores in unlimited numbers -- all for the aquarium pet trade outside Hawai'i.

- Herbivore biomass is another important measure of a reef's ability to survive. By banning the aquarium trade, herbivore biomass would increase substantially. We know this because DLNR reports that the of all the fish biomass removed from West Hawai'i reefs, nearly 27% of it is attributed to the aquarium trade.
- For decades Hawai'i residents and communities have called for a complete end to the trade because of concerns related to the environment and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values.
- Even a 2017 Hawaii State Supreme Court Decision has even been unable to stop the aquarium trade's demand for our fish: aquarium trade catch reports document that over the last two years over 500,000 marine animals have been taken and exported for the pet trade despite the fact that aquarium permits were deemed invalid and illegal as a result of the decision.
- This mass collection also continues despite the court's requirement for DLNR and the aquarium trade to abide by Hawaii's Environmental Policy Act and DLNR's subsequent requirement for full Environmental Impact Studies, which have yet to be completed.

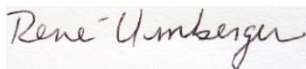
A truly sustainable aquarium trade is possible through aquaculture:

- In 2018, aquacultured yellow tangs became widely available to the aquarium pet trade for the first time in history. They are farmed in Waimanalo and sold around the world.
- New livelihoods are available in this field for those displaced by this measure as well as in collection for public aquariums around the world, through Special Activity Permits, which are already used by a number of these facilities.

There is no time to waste. The very survival of Hawai'i's reefs depends on increasing fish abundance and biomass.

We thank the committees for hearing this important measure and considering these points, and urge you to pass HB2154.

Sincerely,



Rene Umberger
Executive Director

Tel: 808.283.7225
rene@forthefishes.org



February 4, 2020

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

February 6, 2020 at 9:15pm

Conference Room 325

Re: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 931 - RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Please accept these comments submitted by the Center for Biological Diversity in **strong support** of HB 2154 which would prohibit commercial capture of aquatic life for aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection.

In 2017, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court invalidated and prohibited aquarium permits without adequate environmental review, nonetheless it is business as usual for the commercial aquarium collection industry. Hundreds of thousands of Hawai‘i’s culturally and ecologically important reef animals continue to be taken and sold outside Hawai‘i in the aquarium pet trade. In fact, Hawai‘i is the largest exporter of reef fish in the United States, and the third largest in the world.¹

Unfortunately, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) continues to allow commercial collection and continues to issue new aquarium permits as “Commercial Marine License” to any new applicant for an annual fee of a mere \$100. Further, DLNR lacks the resources necessary for enforcement of illegal collection and wildlife trafficking.

The collection of aquatic life for decorative purposes is having devastating impacts on Hawai‘i’s fragile marine ecosystems as these marine animals play a vital role in reef health and resiliency. **Please pass House Bill 2154 so that we can see an end to this trade and its negative impacts on overall reef health and biodiversity.**

¹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/12/murky-underwater-world-of-the-aquarium-trade/>

The Center for Biological Diversity (“Center”) is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has more than 1 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection and restoration of endangered species and wild places.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 2154.

Mahalo,



Maxx Phillips

Hawai‘i Director and Attorney

Center *for* Biological Diversity

Email: Mphillips@BiologicalDiversity.org

Phone: 808-284-0007

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice-Chair
For Hearing Feb.6, 2020 9:15 AM
Room 325 Hawaii State Capitol

RE: SUPPPORT HB2154

Dear Representative Lowen, Representative Wildberger and Committee Members,

I am part of a third-generation family owned snorkel business in Kona Hawaii that began in 1971. We have 50 employees and entertain over 80,000 customers each year. We feel privileged to be in the marine tourism industry where we share the natural beauty of Hawaii every day. We have visited this topic of controlling aquarium fishermen's take many times before. The West Hawaii Fisheries Council worked to protect our coastline from the daily extraction of our critically important tropical fish and saw good results but only in areas protected. Prior to this aquarium fishermen were going out and bringing in igloo's full of yellow tangs, many different species of butterfly fish, moorish idols, etc. I've seen photographs of hundreds of fish lying dead near garbage cans at the harbor. These fish are part of an integral reef system, all together making a reef that can help protect shoreline damage from storms, providing a healthy coral infrastructure and home for hundreds of marine life.

Educate people that these fish should be in the wild not in tanks. Tanks are prison for these fish, they have no space, no natural life. The high percentage of these fish that die in transit is horrendous and then the chance that they will survive in someone's home is not high either. Let's just realize we are better than this and should not decorate our homes with tropical fish in tanks. As many countries have stopped trophy hunting, people have learned not to put Zebra skins on floors, or lion heads on walls. Hawaii needs to stop the collecting and killing of tropical fish. This is how a population evolves, little by little we learn and teach one another not to kill or be cruel to other living beings, especially when they are critical in our survival too. Fish keep the reefs healthy and coral reefs rival the Amazon in producing oxygen for the world.

We have seen a huge decline in the reefs here in Kona over the past decades and we all need to do our part to repair the damage and protect the reefs for our future generations. Please do not allow the fish collectors to make this trade their livelihood. It is time for them to find a new avenue for their living by not taking the lives of the fish and sending our reefs to oblivion. Please pass this bill HB2154.

Sincerely,
Mendy Dant

Mendy Dant
Executive Vice President
Fair Wind Cruises
Kona Sunrise Charters
78-6775 Box A Makenawai St
Kailua Kona, Hi 96740
O. 808-331-3119
C.808-345-6211
www.fair-wind.com

*Cruising the beautiful Kona Coast since 1971
Exploring, snorkeling in Kealahou Bay and along the South Kona Coast*

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:59:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam Monet	Kumulipostudios.org	Support	No

Comments:

Kumulipostudios.org is a non profit dedicated to preserving Hawaii's environment and educating its kids. We firmly believe in global warming, extreme heat and sea level rise that is in Hawaii's short and long term.

Preserving our reefs and its fishes is important to the future of our island home and its people. People who catch and sell any of our reef fish degrade the reef at at time when our reefs need protecting.

Hawaii's had "Kapu" which allowed species to increase, protected. We support this legislation.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:32:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Yes

Comments:

From: FRIENDS OF HANAUMA BAY

To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (EEP)

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair

Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRSQ (WLH)

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Re: HB2154 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2020 9:15 a.m., Room 325

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane, and Committe members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2154 prohibiting all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes regardless of the methods of collection.

In September 2017, the Hawai'i Supreme Court invalidated permits allowing the capture of Hawai'i's reef wildlife for aquariums purposes, pending environmental review. However, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is not enforcing the ruling, so trafficking of Hawai'i's reef wildlife continues.

This trafficking is cruel and inhumane, results in an extremely high mortality rate, and is antithetical to Hawaiian cultural values. Its stoppage is long overdue!

Please support and pass HB2154!

Respectfully,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:11:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
anita wintner	Snorkel bobs	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge you to pass this bill and stop aquarium fish collecting for good. The Hawaii Supreme court ruled to stop the AQ collecting and not sell new licenses. DLNR refused to do their job and told the AQ collectors to use different sized nets and the unlimited take continues. The majority of Hawaii residents want and understand the need to leave the fish on the reef to help save the reefs. Please do the right thing and end the collecting NOW!

Aloha please read and click links. Great videos and very educational. Opposed to HB 2154 THANKS!

THE AQUARIUM FISHERY;

WHY WE NEED THIS FISHERY NOW MORE THAN EVER

We need the aquarium fishery to collect species for researchers, public aquariums, breeding programs, monitor areas no others go, continue the fisheries long term management relationship with DLNR (the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources) and maintain potentially susceptible at jeopardy species in aquariums to [ensure the survival](#) of those species for our next generations. Our small 1-2% catch sustainable fishery provides valuable state income for fishermen, inspectors, researchers, airlines, and stores worldwide and aquarium manufacturing jobs.

We are currently working with major renewable energy federal researchers wanting to utilize quick growing Hawaiian seaweeds as a renewable energy source. Our vast highly renewable ocean resources should be utilized sustainably not banned.

Impacts of the [aquarium fishery](#) have been studied for over 40 years with constant management and thousands of fish counts. Recently the [5-year report to the legislature](#) by Dr Bill Walsh was done and submitted with new data on the fishery. The fishery is sustainable! Fishery takes are well below maximum sustainable 25% yield with an estimated take of only 1 to 2 %.

An Environmental Review (complete [EIS Environmental Impact Statement](#)) of 490 pages was done and is now completed. Same results the fishery is sustainable with little impact to both the environment and the Hawaiian culture. Hawaii's aquarium fishery is the [most regulated fishery](#) in the world.

Without a scientific doubt the fishery is sustainable. But still user groups based in *user conflict* over the ocean want the fishery closed. For them Science is not considered, intentionally ignored or distorted. The reason for their request asking for a closure of the fishery is for personal gain. They want to be the only ones who can show Hawaii's fish with snorkel and dive charters for a profit.

Leading Marine Scientists and the State of Hawaii has agreed many times that the aquarium fishery is a "Model Fishery" (Suzanne Case DLNR head 2019 Legislature) and a desired fishery due to the fact it keeps fish alive, provides jobs, fishery education, ecology and can contribute to science and species preservation!

How were the fish populations in 2019? We did not see the Biblical fish bloom of 2015, but we did see nearly as many. It was a great year for fish in 2019. One of the biggest fish drops for many species ever! Currently working on a video to be released soon.

Luckily the tropical reef fish mostly respond favorably to warmer temperatures by increasing spawning. Even our opposition agreed in the news [there are more fish than ever](#). Fish breeders commonly uses warmer temperatures to stimulate fish breeding with reef fish producing 10,00 to 5 million fry per spawning and multiple times a year. [Marine reef fish are amount the most renewable resources on the planet.](#)

Impacts need to be addressed for individual species and fishermen need to work with state agencies for fluid adaptive conservation. This is already being done.

After having aquariums for 45 years, there is one thing I have learned is that fish are able to acclimate to environmental chemical changes. Compared to global warming aquarium ecosystem changes can be drastic and rapid. Fish can still survive with pH, salinity, oxygen level, temperature and other water quality issues. "The Solution to Pollution is Dilution". Nearshore ocean temperatures run off and pollution can affect fish. Luckily deeper waters have nearly all the same species and you do not see coral bleaching or pollution affecting deeper reefs. Fish and corals can repopulate quickly and abundantly.

Thanks for your time and consideration in Opposing HB 2154,

Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D. UHM

"Global Warmings Benefits for Hawaii's Reef Fish Populations".

It is happening again late 2019, report from several divers, face book posts and video from the East, South West and North shores confirms huge numbers of reef fish on Hawaii's reefs, east, north and south all seeing big baby fish numbers, warmer temps in 2014 and 15 were recorded and fish then also bloomed, not just reef fish but their predators also increased in population. Video post and more videos soon. Exciting to see lots of reef fishes. Fish tend to breed more and produce more during warm temperatures. Many fisheries breeding fish use warmer waters to entice fish breeding.

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/26454840/videos-show-tropical-fish-swarming-states-reefs/>

Certain algae help Kaneohe Bay corals weather warmer seas

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/01/27/hawaii-news/certain-algae-help-kaneohe-bay-corals-weather-warmer-seas/>

A unique algae may be helping corals at Kaneohe Bay become more resilient to climate change, but the algae might also cause the corals to eat less, according to a study by University of Hawaii researchers.

'Super-corals' found in Kaneohe Bay give researchers a glimmer of hope

"Much to our surprise, there are a huge number of corals that are naturally growing in Kaneohe Bay that are very tolerant of higher sea water temperatures and more acidic waters."

<https://www.kitv.com/story/40496627/super-corals-found-in-kaneohe-bay-give-researchers-a-glimmer-of-hope>

Coral reefs in West Hawaii showing signs of recovery

<https://www.khon2.com/news/coral-reefs-in-west-hawaii-showing-signs-of-recovery/>

Great Barrier Reef Is In Much Better Shape Than Climate Alarmists Claim, Australian Environment Minister Confirms

<https://www.thegwpf.com/great-barrier-reef-is-in-much-better-shape-than-climate-alarmists-claim-australian-environment-minister-confirms/>

The Great Barrier Reef is not dead, is not dying and is not even on life support, federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley has declared after her first official visit to the World Heritage-listed site.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:18:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Bugbee	BeyondKona.com	Support	No

Comments:

Subject: HB2154; testimony in favor of bill passage

Report Title: Aquatic Life; Harvesting; Commercial Aquarium Purposes
HB2154 Prohibits all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes,
Description: regardless of the method of collection

It doesn't take a scientist to connect the dots between the present state of Hawaii's reef system and the existence of Hawaii's reef fish, both of which depend on a healthy marine ecosystem, and both are now under attack from multiple manmade stressors.

Make no mistake: Hawaii's reefs and the fish prized by reef extractors which inhabit the same reef system are both major contributors to the state's largest economic segment: Tourism.

There are strong mutual dependencies between the reef-building corals and reef-inhabiting fishes, with many Hawaiian reef fish species depending on corals for food and habitat, while corals depend on the grazing by certain fishes for reproductive success.

Recent scientific findings indicate that the spread of coral diseases may be mitigated by reef fishes, further mitigating global heating impacts, and recognizing the value-added role of Hawaii's reef fish to Hawaii and the need for passage of HB2154 to ensure their preservation.

Allowing the extraction of Hawaii's reef fish, which are at the present and for the foreseeable future facing unprecedented stressors – is a prescription for species extinction, and would be a wanton disregard for common sense policy designed to protect Hawaii's environmental assets and the public interest.

The passage of HB2154 is essential to the health of Hawaii's marine ecosystem.

mahalo a nui loa,

Bill Bugbee

www.beyondkona.com

Kailua-Kona

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:46:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Wintner	Snorkel Bob's Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives, Please pass HB2154 for the sake of Hawaii reefs and Hawaii people. This Legislature passed SB1240 3 years ago, only to be vetoed when Governor Ige deferred to his DLNR Director instead of to you and the will of the people. The aquarium trade kills reefs, kills jobs, and kills tourism. Commercial extraction and removal of a public trust resource makes no sense. Taking iconic reef species away to support a mainland amusement industry sells out Hawaii and the reason visitors come here. Our reefs are vital to our economy. The aquarium trade is an affront to the host culture and to reef survival in these trying times. DLNR has cowed the governor and thumbed its nose at the Hawaii Supreme Court, ignoring injunctive relief and forging ahead in the interests of the aquarium trade and The Nature Conservancy. Please end this tyranny and the Trojan Horse strategy of that commercial entity known as The Nature Conservancy. Please see that aquarium extraction is not fishing but involves anchors and chains on reefs and collectors walking on reefs, poking and prying with sticks, trashing corals to reach critters with no regard for the law or reef destruction AND NO ENFORCEMENT! Fishermen and women don't do that. NOW THE AQUARIUM TRADE promotes a bill that would outlaw video or photo of them at their dirty work. Please pass HB2154 to end this nasty trade, and end this incessant battle between the vast majority of Hawaii people and a handful of collectors who rake in far more money than they're reporting. Thank you.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:22:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Damien Kenison	KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha no kakou, the aquarium collecting trade is a destructive and economically damaging practice that has no benefits to the communities and other stakeholders affected by this trade. Hawaii depends on tourism for a stable economy and removing large amounts of colorful reef fish is counter to what Hawaii, as a tourist destination, has been promoted as and is detrimental to our efforts to compete with other places for economic opportunities. Why would our lawmakers, who understand that the resources of Hawaii with its natural splendors that are significantly intertwined with our economic base, would allow a small group of business people to degrade our reefs to the detriment of the vast majority of the people who visit here and more importantly to those of us who call Hawaii home. Speaking as a native Hawaiian, taking reef fish for purposes other than sustenance is poho, a waste. It detracts from our ability to pass on traditional practices and takes food from our tables which we need to offset the high cost of living. Hawaiians practice the philosophy of "Lawai'a Pono" to fish righteously. In other words leave fish for future generations. Please consider the ramifications of what will happen if the aquarium trade is allowed to continue. DLNR already has its hands full with enforcing its present laws, laws that are meant to protect the resources for all of the people who live here. Please ban aquarium collecting in Hawaii. Please Approve Bill HB 2154

Ke Aloha Nunui,

Damien Kenison PO Box 38, Honaunau, HI, 96726 808 987-9149 KUPA Friends of Ho'okena Beach Park Board member.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:59:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly supports HB2154, which prohibits all harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection. Reef fish are essential components of a healthy near-shore ecosystem including the coral reefs that protect our shorelines from degradation by rising seas and coastal erosion. Our cultural traditions, from mauka to makai, include caring for and harvesting with purpose for use by our families, the resources of the ocean. While allowing for use of fish for consumption or bait, collection for public aquaria, research and education, native Hawaiian and traditional cultural practices as set out in our state constitution, this bill would halt the current practice of unregulated collecting, under-reporting of catch, cruelty to captured animals, depletion of the very fishes that enhances the underwater experiences for residents and visitors. The economic benefits of aquarium collecting amount to less than 0.01% of the economic benefits of commercial marine activities, and the economic losses to collectors could well be offset by other ocean-related employment. The fish used for commercial aquarium trade could be raised in captive rearing facilities already in place.

The reefs and the fish that sustain the ecosystem in balance are a public trust. They are a critical component of traditional fishing practice, have cultural and spiritual significance, and are a precious resource for residents and visitors alike. Plundering a public trust resource for commercial benefit of a very few has resulted over the years in harm to the health and abundance of our beautiful coastal fishes, and this bill will bring protections to reef fish that are already afforded to virtually every other public trust resource.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2154.

Sincerely, Deborah Ward, Chair, Hawaii Island Group

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:33:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. Our coral reefs are under threat from so many different sources. Global warming is causing acidification and leading to a loss of calcium buildup in marine organisms. Global warming is causing the reefs to bleach and die, the event this last summer being the worst yet and indicative of our future. Agricultural and resort development run off, pesticides and herbicides are killing the life of our reefs. Plastics and commercial fishing tackle are killing the inhabitants of our reefs. Tourism is killing our reefs with sun screen and carelessness. Over fishing is killing the life of our reefs. Do we really need to kill marine life so that people can look at pretty fish in their living rooms? The answer is clearly no, we do not need this industry, this is pure luxury and it's reckless and completely thoughtless. I've been diving on West Hawaii Island reefs for 30 years and I don't need to see a scientific study to see the sad decline in fish populations and coral density. Please, this is easy, low hanging fruit. The OVERWHELMING majority of people, not just from Hawaii but around the world, are against harvesting fish for the aquarium trade. I promise you, in ten years, when the tragedy of the climate crisis becomes severe, you will be so glad you passed this bill. You'll feel a visceral sense of relief when you think back to your vote in support of HB2154 Thank you and aloha aina.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:54:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Sensui	Hawaii Goes Fishing	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha...

There has been much said against the aquarium trade. However, any measures taken to protect any natural resource should be based upon carefully collected scientific information.

And any measures taken to regulate access to that resource should not be done through legislation. It has to be done through the administrative rule-making process which was established for that purpose. I am therefore opposed to HB2154 and ask that this bill not be moved forward.

What has been established by studies conducted by the Division of Aquatic Resources is that the practice of capturing and raising these specimens by aquarium collectors is sustainable and does not do any measurable harm to the resource or the habitat.

I've personally observed and filmed the process and attest that claims being made of excessive take and destructive practices are unwarranted and untrue. I have videos of this and would be willing to provide them as direct evidence of how these specimens are collected, and how little it affects the undersea habitat.

The process is very low-impact. The fine-meshed net used to corral the fish for close inspection is just a couple of feet high and perhaps 20 feet long. It's a delicate net that is easily damaged if not handled with care.

A couple of small handheld scoop nets, similar to what you'd use inside of an aquarium, are used to capture just one fish at a time so the diver can carefully inspect it. And if it is deemed to be worth keeping, it's placed in a collection container which is gradually taken to the surface in stages.

The fish that are gathered are given time to adjust to the change in pressure before being brought aboard the boat.

After the diver leaves, there's no evidence he was there. And the numbers of fish remaining appear unchanged. The percentage of fish taken from any particular spot is low. And collectors will rotate among several spots just as other fishermen do.

People who gather these fish do their utmost to keep them in the best condition possible. They cannot afford a high mortality rate. Each one that dies represents a lot of time and effort wasted. And if they develop a reputation for bringing in fish that don't survive, their business might not survive, either.

With reasonable care, the fish live for years afterward -- despite the many claims to the contrary.

It should be noted that these, and other fish, don't live in isolation. They're constantly at odds with a number of predators in the natural world. Of particular concern are invasive species such as roi, toau and taape, also known as blue-lined snapper. This fast-moving fish was introduced in the 1950s and has since populated Hawaii's waters at all depths. From knee-deep to hundreds of feet below the surface. The large schools are often made up of hundreds of fish that consume anything that will fit in their mouths, feeding 24 hours a day.

If people are observing fewer fish as a whole, they need to take into account what kind of damage these invasive species can inflict. Those fish are out there all the time, constantly consuming anything they can. Fishermen, by comparison, are brief visitors who take a small fraction of what's out there.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Dean Sensui, executive producer.
Hawaii Goes Fishing

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:17:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealoha Pisciotta	Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Kai Palaoa	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I submit the following testimony in support of HB 2154 re Banning Commercial Collection of our Reef Wildlife on behalf of Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Kai Palaoa (an Ocean protection organization).

I attempted to use the Committee email yesterday (EEPcommittee@Hawaii.gov) but it failed. So I am resubmitting it now.

We SUPPORT HB 2154 relating to the BAN of Commercial Aquarium Collection of our Reef Food Fish and the very Fish needed to keep our Reefs Healthy!!!!

Our Reef Wildlife are being collected by Commercial Collectors for transport and sales around the World. Hawai'i is one of the largest producers of Aquarium Fish and Wildlife in the World. This is not good and cannot be sustainable.

The Reef Fish and Wildlife commercially collected are our food Fish and the very Fish needed to keep our Reefs healthy and resilient to the damaging effects of climate change.

The food Fish literally feed our Families and our Communities. The Commercial Aquarium industry is devastating our Reefs for their own profit — the fish and wildlife are exported and commercial sold for use in ornamental Aquariums around the world.

The food fish and wild life being collected from our Reefs include but are not limited too, our Lauipala (Yellow Tangs), Pakuku'i, Hinalea, Uhu, Kole, Baby Puhi, Mano, hermit

crabs and even He'e. These are not only our Reef Kia'i (guardians) but are Aumakua (Family guardians) to many of Hawai'i's Families.

This so called Aquarium Trade is simply not sustainable and has a serious negative impact on our Native Hawaiian cultural and traditional Reef practices and therefore to Native Hawaiian Ocean Practitioners. Such mass collection cannot and should not be supported — period!

According to the BLNR/DLNR's own assessment, the Aquarium commercial collection on Hawai'i Island is 2 times more than food and recreational uses combined. The Herbivores (Limu (or algae) groomers and eaters)) such as Lauipala (Yellow Tangs) and the other key species are necessary to protect and restore our Reef and to promote Aina Momona — the Abundance of our Reefs!

Further frustrating our Reef recovery efforts are climate changes such as Ocean heat waves, they used to happen once every 10 years. But because of climate change it's happening much more frequently. Hawaii has been hit by three events in the last 5 years and many corals have died. These heat waves will increase over the next 15-20 years until they occur annually. We must increase abundance of our Reef fishes that eat limu (algae) to protect our reefs from near total collapse. We can't afford to waste ONE MORE FISH FOR MAINLAND HOBBY FISH TANKS!!!

We ask you to support HB 2154 today!

Aloha and Mahalo for your time and consideration.

In Aloha We Remain,

Kealoha Pisciotto,

President of Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and founder of Kai Palaoa (an Ocean protection organization).

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:40:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Hawkinson	Reef Guides Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I own a snorkeling tour company on Kauai. Over the past ten years I have witnessed the disappearance of many species of reef fish, most notably the yellow tang and the yellow-eyed surgeonfish, from most of the reefs around this island. I have a permit to snorkel at Koloa Landing and we are fortunate that there are still abundant numbers of both of these species present there. This is only because it is a common spot for the local dive shops to bring their students and it is known that it is kapu to take anything off of this reef. Unfortunately it is not the same for most of the other reefs including Larsen's Beach, Hideaways, Anini, Makua and Ke'e. Both of these species are mostly gone from all of these locations. Kauai is the only island that does not have Marine Protected Areas (MPA) where that taking of these animals is forbidden. HB2154 would put an end to the wholesale removal of all reef fish from our marine ecosystem and allow our reefs to heal. It is time to stop this senseless harvest of our marine resources just to make a few people rich. Our marine ecosystems belong to all the people, not just the collectors.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:06:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholas Hurd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Allowing predators (people capturing our Hawaiian fish) to rape our fishing grounds just to support a tropical fish trade is terrible. They provide no value to Hawaii or the environment. Most of the fish they harvest wind up dying.

Nicholas Hurd

Kihei

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:29:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Burnette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a scuba diver in Maui, I'm frequently shocked at the lack of tropical fish that I see. Please end the practice of catching and selling these beautiful fish and allow their populations to increase. My understanding is that a majority of those fish that are caught subsequently die in transport. Also, some of these fish contribute to the health of the reefs by consuming the algae that grows on the corals. Let's let nature have it's way and promote the restoration of these natural treasures. Please support this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:39:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i Is Certainly Unique And Beloved By The People Of Hawai'i Nei. Our Oceans Need Dire Protection By Our Government And The Department Of Land And Natural Resources. We As Hawaiians Greatly Appreciate The Efforts That Protect Our Future And Our Children's Future.. We Humbly Ask That You Honor This Protection Like Protecting Nature Herself.. Mahalopiha For You Love Of All Things Hawaiian..

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:17:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is unbelievable that this is still up for discussion and an unresolved issue.

There can be no greater responsibility than to care for our planet, including the ocean and all that lives therein. The aquarium trade only TAKES from our reefs, impacting the health and well being of all of us.

This trade needs to be stopped immediately not only to protect our valuable and beautiful reef ecosystems but also the planet.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:29:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

The aquarium fishery has always been shown to be sustainable at current levels, and is not negatively affecting the environment. It supports many local families and allows people who cannot swim or scuba dive to see the marine life that so many of us take for granted.

Presently, aquarium fishermen are in the process of completing environmental impact statements, as mandated by the Hawaii Supreme Court. This should demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt that aquarium fishing is not harmful to our reefs. Please allow them to finish this process and listen to what the science has to say.

Please do not pass HB2154

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:03:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This past weekend I came across a show called 'Extreme Tanks' or a name close to this. It showed tanks sized in the tens of thousands of gallons filled with live coral and tropical fish.

I thought to myself, "Someday this could be the only way we will see live coral." Imagine living in Hawaii and having to teach our keiki with online videos because our live coral and most of the fish are gone.

I know this is about marine life and not necessarily coral but it is a very interconnected system. Please support this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:45:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Cadiz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Many people do not realize that the best defence we have for sea level rise issues is nature's way - healthy reefs! The fish that the collectors take are part of the reef eco system. We need every single one of them to be healthy and thriving and producing offspring to help keep the reefs healthy. The reefs protect the shores and beaches. And the beach is vital to our culture, our way of life, the nearshore eco system and yes, our economy too.

Please pass this important legislation - for the fish - for the reef - for the beaches, and for our future generations.

Thank you,

Patricia B Cadiz

Maui

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:05:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Wallace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been an active snorkeler and scuba diver for decades on the west coast of the Big Island, as well as working in sailing charters. I have seen first hand the heavy negative impact of unregulated commercial aquarium fish gathering, such as the notable and unhealthy decline of numerous species. Up along the Kohala Coast, where I have lived for the past couple decades, we are finally starting to see some species coming back in numbers (due in large part to Fish Regulation Areas), though still far below what is normal, healthy and balanced populations. With the recent coral damage via bleaching the past few years, it is even more critical that we protect our reef ecosystem, including fish from unreasonable gathering for commercial profit and gain. The few people that benefit from the commercial aquarium gathering of our reef fish do not come CLOSE to justifying the loss countless local residents and visitors experience by the short and long term damage done to our reef ecosystem as a result of their practices. I strongly support this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:34:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jase Goff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The purpose of the bill is to protect the environment. The best available information indicates the Aquarium Fishery has no adverse impacts on the environment.

Please do not pass this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:47:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian living at Wailea Bay, Hawaii Island, for 40 years. The AQ business has drastically reduced the number of fish in our bay despite its status as a Marine Life Conservation Area. I've seen it with my own eyes. This has to stop. I fully support this bill.

Mahalo, George H. Robertson

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:35:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank C Baumholtz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. To destroy a industry and put people out of work , destroy their livelihood is a travesty.

2. To destroy these individuals who pay taxes on their individual businesses and yet you

do nothing about the blight of homelessness shows your true characture.

3. None of you legislators have run a fish business. I have in the past. we were very conservation conscious .

4. I have aquarium fish in my tanks that are over 15 years old. they do not just die because

they are in a aquarium.

5. You probably don't know that the Hurricanes removed more fish from the reefs than anything

else.

6. Yet the fish populations doubled after the storms.

7. Protect your tax paying and business owners

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:35:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grant Heidrich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ongoing onslaught of reef destruction is reaching a tipping point-the reef and marine life inhabitants of near shore fisheries will no longer be able to sustain itself.

The removal of fish and living inhabitants on the reef should be stopped immediately, allowing however for the proposed exemptions detailed in the bill.

This is inconsistent with the cultural practices of Hawaii, and the heritage we wish to leave our children. Biologically, it is so destructive.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:47:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Art Mori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. The fishes are needed to secure a healthy reef around our islands. I often hear visitors comment how they saw many more fishes when snorkeling on previous visits. Commercial collecting has a devastating effect on our environment. I also wonder how many fishes die on their way to local, mainland and foreign private aquariums. Let us stop this unnecessary harmful practice!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:32:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen Virtue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of HB2154 because the Hawaiian reefs need immediate and complete protection from aquarium collecting. As a SCUBA Divemaster, I have heard from many tourists on dive boats who are disappointed by the lack of fish in our ocean. On the dive boats, they discuss how much better the diving is in other areas of the world where there's more tropical fish. Aquarium collecting has hurt the diving industry.

I once had the honor of scuba diving off the secluded island of Ni'ihau near Kauai. The waters are protected there, and so it's filled with gorgeous tropical fish. This is how all of the islands should look! Aquarium collecting is short-term financial gain, but protecting the fish is long-term financial gain for tourism.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:14:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and members of the committees,

I support HB2154. Please end all aquarium reef fishing. There is NO reason to let collectors take one more fish off of the reefs. We must protect all marine life from commercial exploitation.

Please pass HB2154. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:58:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Gatto Jr	Mr.	Oppose	No

Comments:

The industry is well managed and actually has produced an abundance of natural ocean wildlife. The good of the aquatic pet industry is to conserve and increase populations not destroy them. Management not banning is the appropriate solution. Passing this bill will hurt those individuals and companies that collect and transport inhabitants. It will hurt Hawaiiin jobs and its' economy. It will also effect thousands of jobs on the mainland. Please vot no on this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:30:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane and vice Chairs Todd and Wildberger,

My name is Diane Ware and I live in Ka'u. and I am **in strong support of HB 2154 for the reef, it's fishes and the Hawaiian people.**

First, I would especially like to extend my gratitude to the many Big Island legislators who have already stepped forward in sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and supporting this bill, and others over time who have been trying to end this damaging and disreputable business, that is **reef wildlife collecting!**

You are of course aware of the legal efforts to impose some viable regulations and enforceability to no avail thus far. Hawaii Island remains the most flagrant hot spot in the entire state in terms of historic collection as well as *continued poaching activities!* *I first snorkeled here in 1957 and became aware of diminishing tangs around 2004. Local beach community residents from Ka'ohe, Puako and later Miloli'i/Papa Bay reported Aquarium fish collectors as the cause. This past year along with other Sierra Club members I spoke with Ka'imi Kaupiko about the trade and effect on Hawaiians and learned most are very affected by loss of traditional subsistence fishes and that many support a ban as evidenced in the recent DEIS on the trade.*

As an example of the scope of this activity, in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles along the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!*

Statistics bear out the grisly nature of this enterprise which depends on industrial style supply chains to replenish constantly succumbing aquarium stocks. (Nearly every wild caught fish sent out will be dead within one year!). Such industrial style pillage completely puts the lie to the characterization by operators that this activity somehow reflects 'local style' or traditional practices.

My wish is for you to stand with the arguments for ecological sense and wisdom both of the host culture **malama pono**, and modern ecologists who continuously warn of the perils of over fishing and of the loss of biodiversity. These fragile communities of living creatures are under unprecedented assault by direct and indirect man-made harm; 'global warming' not the least of which.

Please use your power today to make *Pono* DLNR history of profit from sale of a natural resource not for food but for a hobby industry mostly out of state. Take a stand for our public trust doctrines, Articles XI and XII by protecting our native culture and natural resources.

Please pass HB 2154 a measure supported by the majority of residents.

Malama Pono,

Diane Ware, 808-967-8642

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:35:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannette Heidrich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The reef fish must stay in the water on the reef for the health of the Hawaiian marine waters. The reef fish are critical for the health of the coral and also other fishes. Also, the magnificence of the reef fish draw visitors to Hawaii and create jobs. please stop all fish collecting on Hawaii's reefs

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:20:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Worchel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Tourism is the financial foundation for our state. Our marine life is a major attraction for the tourism industry. The marine eco system is in peril from climate change and island pollution. There should be no commercial activity that further endangers and depletes our marine life. To risk our precious natural resource to enrich a few individuals is morally reprehensible and financially destructive to the vast majority of our citizens. It also deprives our citizens of enjoying their heritage and natural resources.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:30:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DENNIS YAMAGUCHI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Environmental Impact Statements are nearly completed.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:16:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
linda willaby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a diver and snorkeler and have dived and snorkeled in Hawaii, the Maldives, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. I have been snorkeling in Hawaii almost daily for the past 11 years and I live here full time. I have noticed a sharp decline in the number of reef fish both close to shore and within 100 yards of the shore in water 30 to 40 feet deep. There are so many fewer Yellow Tang than there were when I first arrived here in Hawaii. There are fewer cleaner wrasses, angel fish, Picasso Triggerfish, parrot fish and really, all the reef fish have all but disappeared on the East side of the island.

Fragile tropical fish, who were born to dwell in the majestic seas and forage among brilliantly colored coral reefs, suffer miserably when they are forced to spend their lives in glass tanks. Robbed of their natural habitats and denied the ability to travel freely, they must swim around endlessly in the same few cubic inches of water.

1. popularity of keeping tropical fish has created a virtually unregulated industry that catches as many fish as possible with little regard for the animals themselves. Isn't it much better for everyone, the fish especially, and including the tourist trade that Hawaii depends upon to leave the colorful reef fish in the water for people to see and enjoy.

To put a religious slant on things, if we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect them, not to use them for our own ends. There is nothing in the Bible that would justify our modern-day practices, which desecrate the environment, destroy entire species of wildlife, and inflict torment and death on billions of animals every year. The Bible imparts a reverence for life, and a loving God could not help but be appalled by the way that animals are treated today.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:34:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William K. Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Aquatic Resource management has already been delegated to the DLNR/DAR by the legislature and should not be legislated.

thank you for allowing my testimony.

William Chang

HB2154 is based on emotion, not good science. The Hawaii aquarium fishery is one of the most studied in the world, and it has had existing controls (FRAs) that were deemed effective by rigorous biology study. One of my graduate students demonstrated that Lau'ipala have a great deal of site fidelity and a population that is quite sustainable under existing harvest levels. The legislature should leave fishery management decisions to HDAR, where new blood has improved the science and managerial effectiveness. Management decisions should be science based, not based on emotion and feeling good.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:34:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jody Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support closing this loophole in our law that allows excessive collection of our aquarium fish, which are the. Dry fish that keep our reefs healthy and the marine food web whole. In 2020, given what we know about marine ecology, it's ludicrous to continue to allow collection of these wild fish. Scientific Efforts to propagate these species in aquaria would address the problem: they should not be permitted to remove our wild fish.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:53:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamarin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. I'm an avid and long time scuba diver and have seen the decline of our fish population and reef health over the years. Even more should be done, but let's at least start here.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:31:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shayla Middleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am so grateful to finally see this legislation of environmental protection for our reef fish! In the 15 years since I have lived here, I have been an avid 'water person'. It has saddened me greatly to see the incredible decline in reef fish in this short time.

Since Maui has banned such practices, we have seen an increase in our reef fish.

Years ago we were approached at the Kihei boat ramp by a reef fish collector trying to sell his big boat so he could buy an even bigger boat to collect fish. We were mortified to see his boat deck absolutely full of dozens of 5 gallon buckets chock full of reef fish. He said he did this every day and 'we could too' if we bought his boat! He said it was a 'great business' and made him 'tons of money'.... It was stunning beyond belief how many fish he had collected in just one morning, and how flippant he was about it! He was raping our reefs for a great profit, and wanted a bigger boat to rape it even more!

The other day we ran into him at the gas station and he had become a time share salesman. He was very upset that it was now against the law for him to continue what he was doing and now he was no longer allowed to rape Maui's reefs. We were overjoyed to hear he was no longer in the reef fish business.

It is unconscionable how little it used to take to legally take thousands of fish from Maui waters. It is time, the rest of the State does what is PONO and outlaws all reef fish collection of any kind.

Thank you for supporting this long overdue bill!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:27:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Guzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge passage of the bill banning aquarium collecting. We have known for a decade that reef fish counts in Hawaii are down something like 80% compared to a generation ago. We all should be doing everything possible not to diminish those numbers further. A single fish removed from the reef means potentially thousands of fish will not descend from that taken fish. We should also have extreme restrictions on fishing reefs at all. Corals are rapidly getting bleached and dying off and the worst is yet to come. Why would we not pass this bill, knowing this? Why do a small group of business people get to exploit our natural resources in a decimated ecosystem at the expense of that ecosystem? Whatever their arguments are, they're irrelevant because they can only harm our reefs.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:40:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:13:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:10:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah S LaPlante	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane,

My name is Becky Seal and I speak **in strong support of HB 2154**

First, I would especially like to extend my gratitude to the many Big Island legislators who have already stepped forward in sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and supporting this bill, and others over time who have been trying to end this damaging and disreputable business, that is ***reef wildlife collecting!***

You are of course aware of the legal efforts to impose some viable regulations and enforceability to no avail thus far. Hawaii Island remains the most flagrant hot spot in the entire state in terms of historic collection as well as *continued poaching activities!*

As an example of the scope of this activity, in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles along the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!*

. (Nearly every wild caught fish sent out will be dead within one year!).

My wish is for you to stand with the arguments for ecological sense and wisdom both of the host culture; ***aloha'aina, malama 'aina, 'aina momona, and pono***, and modern ecologists who continuously warn the perils of over fishing and of violating the undiscovered marine symbiotic networks. These fragile communities of living creatures are under unprecedented assault by direct and indirect man-made harm; 'global warming' not the least of which.

Now is the time when what might have been acceptable in days past (think whaling, think shark-fining...think '**Aquarium Trade!**') has become no longer acceptable.

Please use your power today to make *Pono* a wrongful thing.

Please pass HB 2154 as written and intended!

Mahalo

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:26:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing this bill. As a marine biologist and passionate environmental scientist I plead with you to pass this measure. Last year, hundreds of thousands of marine animals were taken from Hawai'i's reefs for the aquarium pet trade despite the 2017 Hawai'i Supreme Court Ruling that led to the invalidation and prohibition of aquarium permits and without the court ordered environmental review. Given the compounding threats of climate change, ocean acidification, ecological collapses due to over fishing and plastic pollution the importance of stopping aquarium harvesting has never been more urgent. Please take action and pass Bill HB2154.

Mahalo,

Fern Anuenue Holland BSc.

Marine Biology & Environmental Science

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:51:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2154. Collecting fish for sale to aquariums depletes our already dangerously depopulated coral reefs, which are becoming more like deserts than the oases they once were. Aquatic resources are also our most valuable natural resource in terms of tourism and the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:37:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Snodgrass	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm fundamentally opposed to HB 2154, as having spent much of my schooling in fisheries and wildlife management as well as having worked for the Minnesota DNR I feel I'm at least in part qualified to make these statements.

While the goal may be to protect the environment science (on numerous species, in all ecosystems) have overwhelmingly proven that the actual science about the Hawaii fishery is accurate. There not only has been no adverse affects on the species being collected but that they have improved through proper management no different than thousands of other well documented species.

Those who choose to ignore the scientific community's findings are dangerous to society, the economy, and the environment. If they choose to ignore the science for their own private agenda or to follow the whim of false social media campaigns and prone to continue that method of reckless decision making in the future. It also supports the same reckless behavior on the other side of the equation of those who would decimate our reefs.

Are we simply to ignore the results of HEPA EISs for these fisheries? Please let's not ignore the lessons this is teaching as it parallels most of our lives. If you want to retire, hiding in fear when the market (social media) gets bumpy will only ensure failure. Listening to the history lessons and patterns laid out over decades (the science) shows the path to success, public engagement, and continued interest in our reefs.

People cannot care about what they cannot see and the fisheries industry is the only group capable of sustainably pushing millions of dollars back into research that ultimately will AND HAS attained significant advances in our understanding of the reefs and how to protect/rebuild them! Coral breeding, fish breeding, invertebrate breeding, coral propagating/micro fragging, photosynthetic process of corals and how to improve it, affect of acidification by even 0.01 pH, fish nutrition per species, nutrient run off and impact on health, cause of urchin die offs in the Caribbean... the list is long and all because of the fisheries and aquarium industry. Look at ducks unlimited, pheasants forever, and the rough grouse society among others. They are in a unique position to do what the government and idealism cannot... create hope, continued and evolving research, awareness, engagement, and it has been documented... also, sustainability and improvement in the habitat.

This bill is wrong, laughs in the face of education and science... the same science they use to talk about over fishing (for food), or acidification of reefs but only when it serves an alternate and short sighted motive.

If you refuse to understand any of those proven facts then fine... start adding jobs + millions of dollars to Hawaii lost each year.

Sincerely,

Ryan Snodgrass

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:23:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Gutierrez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT the protection of our reefs and bill HB 2154

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:24:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am submitting testimony again for the wise use of Hawaii's natural resources. Again Hawaii benefits more from bringing people to the fish instead of a few taking fish out of Hawaii. Aquarium traders concern is their own pocketbooks. No concern for ALL Hawaii Revenue, no concern for the animals, no concern for the ocean, no concern except for Self – ME ME ME....have we not heard enough of this. Please ban the commercial aquarium harvesting and increase the protection of Hawaii's Beautiful Colorful Amazing Reef Fish and Ocean Life.

Most Sincerely, Vivian Toellner PO Box 6894, Hilo HI 96720

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:55:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stop the tropical fish trade! Last year, hundreds of thousands of marine animals were taken from Hawai'i's reefs for the aquarium pet trade despite the 2017 Hawai'i Supreme Court Ruling that led to the invalidation and prohibition of aquarium permits and without the court ordered environmental review.

How? Because DLNR is allowing the aquarium trade to harvest our marine life without proper review, as long as the trade claims they aren't using prohibited gear. There are no limits on the numbers of marine animals that can be taken, and the trade proposed no limits in their recently filed and extremely flawed Draft Environmental Impact Study.

Hawai'i residents and communities have long called for a complete end to the trade for decades because of environmental concerns and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values. In the last 45 years, every statewide law regulating this wildlife trade has ignored these longstanding issues and allowed the continued take of unlimited numbers of these animals.

Mahalo,

Tlaloc Tokuda

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:03:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michael gilbert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I live and work in Maui I have observed over the years the complete Rape of our Reef fish. Personally I have seen numerous times boats docked just outside of Makana landing harvest fish for days

Honestly as I diver for thirty years I saw the compete decimation of fish just on this one reef alone

its absolutely crazy and with no logic and no way that you can verify each boat and what they harvest

This is a disgusting third world practice. Please stop it's the least you can do

Aloha Michael Gilbert MA. CR.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:22:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter LaRoque	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This Bill is proposed in opposition of State collected data that indicates that the fishery is beyond sustainable and that population density has increased under the current collection practices.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:50:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian F. Funai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in opposition to HB2154

Thank you,

Brian Funai

Keaau, Hawaii 96749

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:13:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Birgit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill, because there is scientific evidence that the collection of marine ornamentals in Hawaii has no impact on the population. The population of yellow and kole tang, the 2 most collected species for the ornamental trade, has increased over the last few years, despite of the collection of these species.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:09:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Monasevitch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:09:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thalia Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect our reefs! I am in or on the water several days a week and appreciate the marine life we have here in Hawai'i. Aquarium fishing damages our native marine ecosystem. Taking certain species allows for the out-of-control growth of invasive algae. We need the balace that our fish provide. Thank you!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:15:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brigitte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, because there is scientific evidence that the Collection of marine ornamentals in Hawaii has no impact on the Population. The Population of yellow and kole tang, the 2 most collected species for the ornamental trade, has increased over the last few years, despite of the collection.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:44:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:16:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill, because there is scientific evidence that the collection of marine ornamentals in Hawaii has no impact on the population. The population of yellow and kole tang, the 2 most collected species for the ornamental trade, has increased over the last few years, despite of the collection of these species.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:52:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill, because there is scientific evidence that the collection of marine ornamentals in Hawaii has no impact on the population. The population of yellow and kole tang, the 2 most collected species for the ornamental trade, has increased over the last few years, despite of the collection of these species.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:18:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Elgner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill, because there is scientific evidence that the collection of marine ornamentals in Hawaii has no impact on the population. The population of yellow and kole tang, the 2 most collected species for the ornamental trade, has increased over the last few years, despite of the collection of these species.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:11:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
glenn fukuda	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

opposed, this is a world wide industry with hawaii the only popular usa location. at least 50 years of fishing under our belt and a renewable population no one can defeat except nature itself. no eis was done for the taape or roi introduction in hawaiian waters and their populations inundated our reefs. where is our 50 years of destruction it is odd judges ignore the fact this state allowed us to establish our livelihood with no remorse willing to take it away.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:01:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I've been one of the hundreds of local residents who've voiced concerns over tropical fish collection for over 3 decades. Let's finish this and move on already. No more fish collecting!

We need this bill. We need to stop treating our oceans like Walmart where we can take all we want and think there'll be more tomorrow. We're the stewards -- not the consumers. It's up to us -- YOU -- to stop the waste of fish species not being used for food but for pretty baubles, like house plants.

Our reefs are suffering. I see it every time i surf or swim in Hawai`i Island's west side waters. Sea level rise has left trees we once used for shade under water. Dead. As climate change devastates our reefs, what will it take to realize the the manini aquarium trade doesn't deserve to continue when the collapse of ecosystems is at stake?

Mahalo for supporting this bill and making aquarium collection a thing of the dark past.

Sincerely,

Janice Palma-Glennie

Kailua-Kona

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:02:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Vail	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. Many of the fish captured die before reaching a destination; many more die shortly after. Most of the fish captured and sold are found nowhere else in the whole world. No one would be allowed to capture and sell native birds; why is anyone allowed to sell off our reef fish. This has come up many times but NOW is the time to pass this. As an avid scuba diver, I see the sad state of our reefs and decline of fish in many places. Thank you.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:34:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Used to be I'd swim off Kihei and would see choke fish. Now I NEVER see a fish. The predations of these aquarium collectors are stealing from all of us and ruining the oceans - and what? For a few greedy individuals to feed the unsustainable aquarium sales for wild fish. It's shameful. Shameful for the collectors, distributors, sellers and users.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:03:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sirs, I am a long time resident of the Big Island and an observer of fish populations on the Kona side of the island. I have kept detailed records for thirty years. There can be no doubt that reef fish populations are declining. Our reefs are one of the chief draws for tourism and provide immeasurable joy to those of us who live here. It is a travesty that a few selfish individuals are permitted to endanger this God given resource for just a little bit of money. clearly the governor and his administration can not be trusted as stewards of our reefs. I support HB2154 and encourage you to do all you can to protect this important resource and legacy to our keiki. Respectfully, Jeffrey Hill, 77-6456 Ono Rd Kailua Kona

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:27:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Pedersen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Simply put, anti-aquarium trade bills are submitted pretty much every legislative season in Hawaii, and every year the false claims made by the activists behind these bills fall flat in the face of science and data.

Frankly, it should be unlawful to resubmit the same tired bills over and over again, tying up the legislator with false claims and emotional arguments.

In the end, the state's own managing body has concluded that Hawaii's aquarium fishery is sustainable. PIJAC and the West Hawaii Aquarium Fishermen recently conducted a massive and expensive environmental impact study that came to the same conclusion.

Worse yet, consider that the act of spearfishing a \$300 Achilles Tang and selling it for \$4.99/lb at a local market...ask yourselves why other forms of fishing are completely ignored by these activists. Why is a trade that generates MORE revenue for the same net removal vilified?

What happens to a fish after it is removed from a coral reef is irrelevant to the question. Whether spearfished or caught alive for the aquarium trade, the fish has been removed. Arguments that propose that one removal is wrong or unsustainable must consider ALL fisheries, not one. With regards to the aquarium fishery in Hawaii, it has been demonstrated time and again to be sustainable and properly managed by the stage agencies tasked with that oversight.

I, therefore, request that this, and other bills which will be submitted to close this legal and sustainable fishery be considered for what they are—baseless allegations preying on a misinformed public to suit the agenda of an emotional, moral argument over whether fish should be kept in aquariums. The keeping of animals in captivity is legal, and the fishery for marine aquarium fishes in the state of Hawaii is sustainable and well-managed.

And I will close, once more, by reminding anyone reading this. I have a real moral and ethical problem with people who believe that spearing an animal and selling it dead, to eat, for pennies on the dollar, is somehow an accepted and superior use of the resource when compared with the hundreds of dollars generated by keeping that animal alive,

sending it abroad to be an ambassador of the ocean and coral reefs everywhere.

People say that we only protect that which we love, and we only come to love that which we know. And people around the world come to know, and love, Hawaii's reef life through the aquarium trade.

In truth, the aquarium fishery is being scapegoated as a luxury so that people can turn a blind eye to real threats that do create an uncertain future for Hawaii's coral reefs—near-shore pollution and coral bleaching as a result of warming water temperatures driven by climate change. But I do understand the logic of anti-aquarium activists lying to the public, going after a small industry, making emotional arguments, because it's easy to do and cheap to do. And if they win, they point to the shuttering of a sustainable industry as a victory, while the actual threats to coral reefs remain unchecked.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:51:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Gorch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please revise! The aquarium trade has and is expanding its knowledge. Multiple examples of new technologies to produce aquatic organisms is in its infancy. Without brood stock it will cripple the advancement. Sustainable programs are already in effect and the decline is not responsible for over collecting for the aquarium trade by the Hawaiian protocol. Look at Florida with its Coral seeding program. It's time to stop restrictions and focus on rebuilding the life of Hawaiian aquatic ecosystems.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:36:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James T Lovell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

My name is Jim Lovell and I have been an Aquarium Fisherman on the Big Island for 41 years and I am opposed to this bill.

Over the last 40 years, we have passed regulation after regulation on the Aquarium Industry. Nearly 40% of the Kona Coast has been set aside as “no collecting” zones. Over 200 hundred species of fish have been protected as zero take to Aquarium collecting. All of this has been done to guarantee the resource can not be depleted by over fishing and that the reef is protected. These regulations have addressed all the concerns of all other near shore user groups. They have unlimited access to the entire coast line and huge areas of untouched coastline. We have 23 years with the West Hawaii Advisory Council bringing all user groups to the table which has culminated in solutions that are supported by all user groups. This process of having all the stakeholders come up with compromises to resolve user conflict is recognized around the world for its achievements.

The Aquarium industry is also near the end of a two year process to complete an Environmental Assessment, an EIS and a cultural Assessment. Something that no other near shore user group has even started.

This bill, if passed, would destroy all the work of hundreds of community members and years of studies by the scientific community. Why does the Legislature encourage community involvement to find solutions to problems only to wipe them out by a single bill, backed by people who have not been a part of that process? It is not the way our government should work. This process is supposed to be fair to all the people of Hawaii not just a vocal minority.

This industry has been proven to be sustainable and is back by science and fact. Please choose fact over fiction and truth over lies.

A “Reservation” vote is a “yes” vote.

Please vote “No” on this bill.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Jim Lovell

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:32:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen, Yamane and Committee Members;

My name is Dane Enos and I was a tropical fish collector for many years. I'm here to support HB2154 and to share what I know.

The pet stores and trop divers who claim things are fine are wrong. Things are not ok on our reefs.

When I began trop diving, the reefs were pristine and there was so much abundance. I took many, many fish. But because I would dive a reef and leave it to recover 14 to 18 months, the overall abundance remained.

But then many new divers showed up and that's what changed our reefs.

These new divers were driven to bring in more and more fish by the wholesalers they worked for.

Reefs were no longer given any recovery time and boats would pull up to the very same spot I had just worked, before I even had left. I told them to let it rest, but all they saw were dollar signs and the hundreds of fish still on the reef to be caught.

They wouldn't listen to reason. They were intent on taking every last fish.

It changed those reefs – possibly forever, but I hope not...

So I decided to get out of the business. I just couldn't be a part of that destruction, knowing that it would take Mother Nature all of her might to undo what we have done to her reefs, as uninvited guests...

My final point is that you should know that fish survival rate is zero as far as the reef is concerned. And because they die so quickly in captivity, there is constant consumer demand.

Today's trop collectors just can't say no to that—that's why this bill is so important. I made a new living for myself, and I know the remaining trop divers will too.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:36:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kay McBride	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i's reefs NEED these creatures, now more than ever before. Reducing the impacts of ocean heat waves and coral bleaching and loss requires greater resilience, and increasing abundance of important species. YOU can help make this happen.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:27:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Stockhausen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because

Overwhelming science and studies over the past 20 years have proven that the fishery is not only sustainable, but shows fish populations of the commonly caught fish (Yellow Tang and Kole Tang) have increased 95-105% in the open areas due to DLNR's successful management of the fishery.

The aquarium fish population is not in danger but thriving.

Please do NOT pass this bill!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:00:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ChristopherMcCullough	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:26:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2154 protect our reefs from the commercial aquarium trade. The aquarium fish trade kills over half of the fish they catch. The transport of fish to pet stores is highly stressful to animals to kills them. Those who survive the delviery and introduction into aquariums have a shortened life span and usually never complete their life cycle. The aqaurium fish trade needs to stop. I support HB2154.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:50:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:28:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Ota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 8:39:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:25:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane,

My name is Rob Culbertson and I speak as a Hawaii Island member of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party **in strong support of HB 2154**

First, I would especially like to extend my gratitude to the many Big Island legislators who have already stepped forward in sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and supporting this bill, and others over time who have been trying to end this damaging and disreputable business, that is **reef wildlife collecting!**

You are of course aware of the legal efforts to impose some viable regulations and enforceability to no avail thus far. Hawaii Island remains the most flagrant hot spot in the entire state in terms of historic collection as well as *continued poaching activities!*

As an example of the scope of this activity, in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles along the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!*

Statistics bear out the grisly nature of this enterprise which depends on industrial style supply chains to replenish constantly succumbing aquarium stocks. (Nearly every wild caught fish sent out will be dead within one year!). Such industrial style pillage completely puts the lie to the characterization by operators that this activity somehow reflects 'local style' or traditional practices.

My wish is for you to stand with the arguments for ecological sense and wisdom both of the host culture; **aloha'aina, malama 'aina, 'aina momona, and pono**, and modern ecologists who continuously warn the perils of over fishing and of violating the undiscovered marine symbiotic networks. These fragile communities of living creatures are under unprecedented assault by direct and indirect man-made harm; 'global warming' not the least of which.

Now is the time when what might have been acceptable in days past (think whaling, think shark-fining...think '**Aquarium Trade**'!) has become no longer acceptable.

Please use your power today to make *Pono* a wrongful thing.

Please pass HB 2154 as written and intended!

Mahalo

Feb. 4, 2020

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane,

My name is Meizhu Lui from Hawaii Island and I speak **in strong support of HB 2154.**

Reef wildlife collecting is out of hand in Hawaii particularly on this island. I was shocked myself to learn that in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles along the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!* This pillage for private profit not only threatens our ocean ecosystems, but hurts Hawaii's own tourist industry since tourists (and locals!) want to snorkel and see these creatures in their native habitats. It is a bummer to go snorkeling and see nothing but rocks.

While big aquariums open to the public have a good reason to have many kinds of aquatic life to show people the beauty and diversity of sea life and to promote good stewardship of our oceans and waters, there is no need to sell them to huge numbers of people who often don't even care for them properly.

Please pass HB 2154 as written and intended!

Mahalo for your protection of our diminishing resources.

Meizhu Lui

Papaaloa, HI 96780

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 11:36:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please SUPPORT HB2154, our reefs are facing an onslaught of threats from Climate Change and human encroachment, from ocean heat waves to acidification to pollution runoff to sunscreens and so much more, we need to reduce our impact on these very delicate ecosystems in every way we can. One very easy way is to ban the aquarium trade from taking Hawai'i's precious reef species, who often die in the process, away from their complex and finely tuned balancing role in the wild. With regards reef species, it is especially true that the whole is greater than the sum of it's parts, in these ocean ecosystems the interactions and boundaries between species are blurred much more so than that on land, we are only beginning to understand the complexity of it all. With the coming bottleneck of impacts due to climate change, if we hope to see any of our beautiful ocean friends make it thru this very short window of time we have for planetary protection, we need to treat them together, for Hawai'i's people, visitors, and the ocean itself, we need to protect ALL we can. Banning commercial aquarium collection is an easy and significant first step, and would encourage aquarium collectors to do better with care, handling and reproduction success, and still allows many aquarium purposes that are reasonable and beneficial to society. Until the threats to our reefs have significantly diminished and the health of the ecosystem is restored, we need this ban. Please support HB2154. Mahalo!

Phaethon Keeney

Honoka'a Hawai'i

My name is Bill Graham and I live near Hawi on the Big Island. I support HB2154 because I think it is plain wrong to be catching beautiful Hawaiian reef fish purely for their use as "pets" within extremely confining fish tanks elsewhere in the world.

I can readily cite two specific, important reasons for my support. First, our coral reefs are under great stress currently, primarily due to global warming and its impacts on both ocean temperature and acidity. The tangs and other surgeonfish are important participants in keeping reefs healthy. Man should not be risking any additional potential harm to the reefs.

Second, catching these fish for this use is unjustifiable. Please imagine that commercial harvesting of our lovely birds were taking place in a similar manner. People were setting nets in trees to capture cardinals and saffron finches and the like. The captured birds would go on to be sold for people elsewhere to keep in confining cages for their abbreviated lifetimes. There would be a great public outcry, can you imagine? We have less outcry about the ocean fishes just because fewer people are witnessing the activity firsthand.

Also note that the aquarium fisherman have the alternative of using their boats for commercial fishing of food species as well as diving tours for tourists and residents. Their loss due to a ban is significant but not crippling.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:01:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha ,

I'm writing to voice my concerns regarding the possible reversal of the tropical fish collection ban that's been in place for a few years. As a scuba diver in the south Kona , captain cook area over the last 11 years I've seen first hand how some species were decimated, particularly in the Milolii area where some of the collectors operate. Since the ban went into effect I've noticed some of the species start to appear in juvenile form. As the tropical fish population starts to recover, it seems an odd time to lift the ban. The argument that 14 licenses won't hurt isn't valid, as many divers can operate under one license. Also determining which collectors are legitimate and which are not will be impractical given DNLRs limited resources. While I personally think a permanent ban is the right thing, certainly leaving the ban in place for the next few years only makes sense as the reef fish are only starting to recover. The reef fish are also vital to the health of the coral reefs which have been struggling due to bleaching. Further stressing the coral at this time doesn't make sense. As someone who worked in the tourism industry until this year, I received many comments from visitors that they don't see as many fish (yellow tang, clown fish, butterfly fish etc) as they used to. Knowing how important tourism is to this island, it seems foolish to deplete what keeps visitors coming back for snorkel adventures. Even if you remove the moral element to this situation, it seems like taking from the many to benefit the few financially. Again, having seen the collection operations of the past first hand, I'm quite sure bringing them back will be very harmful to our ecosystem and our livelihoods.

I appreciate you time

Mahalo

James Ward 808-895-9656

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:42:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please do this! I snorkel 3x a week, and I see the lack of fish on the corals that are bleaching and covered in algae. This is the LEAST we can do NOW! Please for our island and those of us who love the ocean.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:42:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Buck Joiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Reef fish are an extremely valuable asset for residents and visitors and should NOT be captured and sold for the profit of a few people

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:42:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alana Rask	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Our oceans are suffering by all accounts. Not only do we need biodiversity, but we need to let these ecosystems be. In a warming world, our oceans depend more heavily on each reef fish. The taking of reef wildlife for aquarium use should be included with the taking of sand, dead coral, rocks, soil, and other marine deposits.

Aloha,

Alana Rask

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:57:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jen tempchin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Leave the fish in the ocean, where they belong. In this age of internet, social media and underwater photography, sealife can be seen without being stolen from their families and habitat. Or just go snorkeling.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:37:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GREGG BLUE	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please end this unsustainable practice.....

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:44:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Essner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Fish are an important part of the natural reef habitat. By taking fish out of this habitat the coral dies. When the coral dies fish do not come back it's called habitat collapse. When there are no pretty fish to see in the water people stop visiting! Do you get it yet?

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:50:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donald Lidtke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. The purpose of the bill is to protect the environment. The best available information indicates the Aquarium Fishery has no adverse impacts on the environment.
2. Passing the bill will ignore this science and result in substantial economic impacts on fishers and business involved in this fishery.
3. The fishery has spent thousands of dollars developing HEPA EISs for these fisheries, and the analysis in these documents should be carefully considered.
4. The bill is not justified, and it will impact native Hawaiians engaged in this lawful fishery.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:15:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
david hill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2154, our fragile marine eco system continues to be in decline. The harvesting of our marine life for aquarium purposes has not benefit aside from the furthering of the aquarium suppliers greed. Enough is enough.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 12:31:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carole Wiedmeyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support an end to the taking of wildlife for the pet industry. Our reefs in Hawaii are under enormous stress to due to overfishing, pollution, acidification and warming temperatures. We need our reef fish populations to be undisturbed so they can help mitigate these other stresses and keep our reefs and shorelines more resilient in the future.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:30:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hugh Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable House Members:

I am in support HB2154 - a total ban on harvesting fish for aquarium purposes. Reef fish are a resource that belongs to ALL citizens of the State of Hawaii. Allowing fish collection in our waters is essentially allowing a small group of people to rob Hawaii's citizens of their property. While it is a shame that a bill like HB2154 is even necessary, let's spell it out in the Hawaii Revised Statutes that aquarium fish collection is a crime.

Thank you.

Hugh Baker

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:12:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Eccard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:25:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Stein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an ocean user and someone that recognized how an ecosystem works It is imperative that unlimited take of our resources be stopped.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:29:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Graham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Judith Graham, now of Waimea. I have lived on Hawaii Island well over 40 years and have long viewed collection of reef fish for aquariums with great distaste.

It reminds me somewhat of a project that a corporation proposed perhaps 25 years ago here in East Hawaii--to cut 300 acres of ohia lehua forest for wood chipping or timber, I've forgotten exactly which. Hawaiians including prominent activist Moanikeala Akaka brought this to public attention, although I don't know the final result of their concern.

Today such a project would be unthinkable. Collection of the often rare Hawaiian reef fish for US and international aquariums should also be unthinkable.

Especially Hawaii's yellow tang which constitute 90 percent of the global "supply" of yellow tang according to the industry reps, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, who recently prepared a Draft EIS for the DLNR. The 90 percent figure comes from the web page of their Aquatics Committee.

Further on this specific lovely yellow fish: Individual fish jmay sell for from \$69 to \$169, depending on size, on typical commercial web sites similar to Amazon. Yellow tang while not endemic are indigenous. They are relatively rare in the eastern Pacific range where they are also found; Hawaii's 90 percent market "supply" figure would indicate this as well.

And thinking of West Hawaii where I live, this is the State's premier grounds for aquarium fish collection, and here more than 80 percent of the collection catch consists of yellow tang. That info is found in the Draft EIS. As is the fact that just over a quarter million yellow tang were taken off annually in two recent years.

The State must truly take a stand against this exploitation of a resource so special to Hawaii.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:37:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please leave our fish on their home reefs to thrive and survive.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:14:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yagodich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2154. Leave our fish on our reefs. Each species has a role to play in our ecosystem and with so many threats, now is the time to make change that will help ensure the health of our ocean.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:25:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Please vote for HB2154. The decline in the number of fish in our coastal waters is clear to anyone who has lived here for a while. Hawaii's reefs need all these creatures - the symbiosis of a coaral reef is extremely complex and has not begun to be fully understood by humans. Now, with climate change and coral bleaching running rampant, it is even more important to protect what we have. The aquarium industry is an extractive and exploitative institution that deserves to be relegated to the trash-heap of bad ideas. SAVE OUR BABY FISH!

Thank you

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:37:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander Peleholani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 2154 should be deferred because it 1) Ignores Scientific Data, 2) Puts Native Hawaiians out of work, 3) Creates mistrust of state 30x30 goals and initiatives, 4)

1) The bill openly **ignores scientific data** that has supported the Hawaii aquarium fishery as a sustainable fishery, in the same way that President Trump openly ignores scientific data to promote his political agenda. Your own State of Hawaii DLNR has provided you with this data, yet it remains ignored.

2) Closing a sustainable fishery will put **Native Hawaiians** out of work, in a time when its already hard for Hawaiians and locals to survive in Hawaii. What justification does this bill have for costing jobs? When did the state start prioritizing personal agendas by wealthy mainland organizations, over those of local families that care for the ocean and rely on it for a living? Does the Hawaii State Constitution only protect a few Hawaiians that don't like AQ fishing? What about Hawaiians who rely on a proven sustainable fishery?

3) This bill rejects the priorities and goals of the **States Marine 30x30**. The premise of this bill rejects science and community fisheries, in the favor of a small minority that just doesn't like it. This precedent set will grow the **mistrust of the State of Hawaii**, especially within the fishing community. The fishing community is critical to the states marine 30x30 goals.

4) At the request of the State Supreme Court, an Environmental Impact Statement is being completed. To pass this bill is to **invalidate the HEPA process** for which the Aquarium fishery has started in good faith. Why would the state intervene before the study is even finished?

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 3:52:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect our ocean resources. I support this bill.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:04:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Dane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2154 prohibiting all harvesting of Hawaii’s aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes, regardless of the method of collection, and thank the Committees for addressing this important mater that affects the lives of at least 200,000 marine animals per year.

84 percent of Hawaii voters polled want to end the removal of our coral reef wildlife to populate mainland aquariums. Aside from the significant impact on our reef and the drastically reduced numbers of beautiful fish for residents and visitors to behold, methods used to capture and ship these animals are extremely cruel –frequently leading to death in the process. The survivors have a much higher mortality rate in buyers’ tanks than fish in the wild – creating a never-ending demand for our reef fish.

Fish in the aquarium pet trade suffer from unacceptably high death rates. Though many, such as the yellow tang, would survive for decades in the wild, the lives of most in captivity are measured in weeks or months. Contributing to these shortened lives are the inexperienced hobbyists purchasing them, most of whom stay in the hobby on average only a year before giving it up.

The aquarium fishing trade and hobbyists alike treat fish like cut flowers to be displayed until they die (often of starvation) that are then discarded and replaced. The capture and export of animals that have virtually no chance of survival in captivity should cease. We wouldn’t allow our native birds to be trafficked for mainland bird enthusiasts, with a high mortality rate. It’s even illegal to remove lava rock and sand – for any purpose, commercial or not.

Please pass HB2154 to protect Hawaii’s aquatic wildlife.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:17:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:53:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Grantham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Unlimited and poorly considered taking of reef fish does not help either the fish or reefs. End the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade that is causing detrimental harm to our coral reefs. Our reefs are the backbone of our oceans and our best defense against rising seas and we must protect them.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:33:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:48:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Dow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly Support this bill.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:16:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why is this still an issue? STOP the aquarium commercial harvesting.

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:22:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB2154. Last year, hundreds of thousands of marine animals were taken from Hawai'i's reefs for the aquarium pet trade. DLNR is allowing the aquarium trade to harvest our marine life without proper review, as long as the trade claims they aren't using prohibited gear. There are no limits on the numbers of marine animals that can be taken, and the trade proposed no limits in their recently filed and extremely flawed Draft Environmental Impact Study. Hawai'i residents and communities have long called for a complete end to the trade for decades because of environmental concerns and the trade's numerous conflicts with local and cultural values. In the last 45 years, every statewide law regulating this wildlife trade has ignored these longstanding issues and allowed the continued take of unlimited numbers of these animals. Hawai'i's reefs NEED these creatures, now more than ever before. Reducing the impacts of ocean heat waves and coral bleaching and loss requires greater resilience, and increasing abundance of important species. End the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade that is causing detrimental harm to our coral reefs. Our reefs are the backbone of our oceans and our best defense against rising seas and we must protect them.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:41:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Wallace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our Hawaiian reefs are essential to both our economy and to the health of our environment. The taking of fish for aquariums is a practice which is extremely harmful to our ocean ecology. Not only are our local fish taken but there is a very large percentage of bycatch which is killed. In this time of environmental threats it is of the utmost importance that we protect our land and our oceans.

It greatly saddens me when a few, for their own financial benefit, are willing to destroy the environment for the many. Our economy also depends on tourism which would be affected by the degradation of our reefs caused by overfishing as well as other environmental factors.

Please do the right thing and vote to protect our environment and our children's environment.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:14:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The DLNR restrictions to the aquarium trade are not working. The 2017 Hawai'i Supreme court-ordered environmental review has not been done. In spite of the invalidation and prohibition of aquarium permits, last year hundreds of thousands of marine animals were taken from Hawaii's reefs for the aquarium pet trade.

Why? Because DLNR is allowing the aquarium trade to harvest our marine life without proper review, as long as the traders claims they aren't using prohibited gear. There are no limits on the numbers of marine animals that can be taken, and the trade proposed no limits in their flawed Draft Environmental Impact Study.

Hawai'i residents and communities have called for a complete end to the trade for decades because of environmental concerns and the trade's conflicts with local and cultural values. But for the last 45 years, state laws regulating this wildlife trade have largely circumvented the number issues and allowed the continued take of unlimited animals. End it once and for all.

It's simple to understand. Hawaii's reefs need protection more than ever before. The ocean has already suffered impacts of ocean heat waves and coral bleaching. Reef habitat is already threatened in maintaining important species. We need marine reserves where no fishing is permitted for sustainability of the diverse fish populations.

Think about this. Which is more important to Hawaii: the aquarium trade or tourism? It's a bad business decision to allow the aquarium trade to continue its unmitigated effect on snorkeling and diving. Many of the ocean tour operators have voiced their rightful concerns to stop aquarium harvesting.

Please consider supporting HB2154 to end the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade..

Thank you, L. Osterer, a Kauai resident and registered voter

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:37:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:47:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalena Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2154!

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:36:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The core argument of the anti aquarium fishing activists is that they think its morally wrong. If eating meat is wrong and cruel to animals, will the legislature demand it stops and make laws to do so? Imposing special interest groups ethical standards is wrong, especially when it is at the socioeconomic demise of locals and Native Hawaiians. Start supporting sustainable fishing, no matter what type, otherwise the future of sustainable fishing in Hawaii is doomed to fail.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:47:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Maile Pokipala	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2154

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:24:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Buffy Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support House Bill 2154. We are stewards of Hawaii Nei. It is our responsibility to care for all the gifts in its lands and seas. Those who desecrate the animals and plants in Hawaii need to be held responsible for their atrocities. Reef fish are important for the health of the reef and ocean. Disturbing that balance by harvesting decorative fish to sit in a tank is atrocious and contrary to the constitution of the state of Hawaii and its indigenous people. We need to protect our natural resources to ensure the health of our reefs, oceans, islands and the future of Hawaii. Please pass into law House Bill 2154. Thank you.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:59:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bridgit Bales	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support of this Bill.

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:03:50 PM
Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scott folsom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a local resident for over 35 years, and a former marine scientist at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, I am testifying in Opposition to HB 2154.

The data do not support what is being directed under this bill. DLNR has repeatedly shown data and testified that the aquarium fishery has a very small take and a miniscule impact on total reef mortality.

DLNR fish counts are way up and show that the aquarium fishery is sustainable!

Much of the testimony in favor of this bill comes from snorkelers who only go tourist areas or shallow. Aquarium fishermen do not dive shallow, they do not go to tourist areas and they do not even dive most of the islands in question. Collection only occurs from Oahu and the Big Island. It is very clearly a user conflict with just a few small vocal groups who oppose the fishery supposedly for business reasons, even though there is no impact or conflict.

The sustainable fishery worked with the State of Hawaii DLNR officials from 2012 to 2015 and together new rules for the fishery were created to ensure sustainability for forever. Catch limits, bag limits for many species and net restrictions were created; all of these laws are now in force.

In 2015 a Biblical bloom in fish populations happened increasing the oceans of Hawaii with so many fish that they are now everywhere years later! Fish populations in Hawaii are better than ever. This has been irrefutably demonstrated scientifically, and attested to by DLNR.

Please do not pass HB 2154.

Thank you.

Scott Folsom, MS

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:22:56 PM
Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapono Kaluhiokalani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB2154. This bill threatens the livelihoods of many Native Hawaiian fishermen, not only in the aquarium industry but all fishing. The scientific evidence is overwhelmingly in support of the sustainable aquarium industry. Please don't play politics with peoples livelihoods, and do whats right. Support ALL sustainable fishing, or risk losing the support of Hawaiis fishermen.

Mahalo

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:10:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
keomailani von gogh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass HB 2154. We are the most isolated island chain on the planet and have a very finite amount of resources. We all know that these fish a small handfull of comercial aquarium collectors collect are a very important part of out ecosystem. With all due respect, i can't understand how this is even happening. As a Native Hawaiian, I am appalled at the States lack of forethought about the environment and the understanding of the Hawaiian culture. Some Hawaiians regard some of these fish as Amakua as many of you are aware. I ask that you support this and pass HB 2154.

mahalo for your time,

Keomailani Von Gogh

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:06:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cindy freitas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2154, due to climate changing, we are in need of our reef fishes and other sea creatures to give balance in the ocean. Mahalo

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:50:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why are a handful of people allowed to exploit an invaluable public resource for persona profit? The changes in the ocean resulting from climate change are threatening the viability of ocean ecosystems. To protect those systems is critical. That kuleana to protect the kai surely takes precedence over commercial removal of our fish to serve as entertainment in some fish tank.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:07:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:23:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita Massey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2154 to stop collecting fish for the aquarium trade. This practice is wrong on multiple levels.

The reef ecosystem needs the fish and all its life forms to be healthy. Many of these fish eat algae and so control algae overgrowth on the coral.

Most of the fish collected die before they reach market, and the survivors live a much shorter lifespan than in the wild. This is cruel to do just for people's amusement.

People visit the islands for their natural beauty and I have seen a great deal of decline on our reefs in the last twenty years. The corals are covered with algae and there are not very many fish. So much for what was once world class snorkeling and a major tourists attraction.

Please do the right thing to save the reef, be respectful of living creatures, and keep our ocean tourism thriving. Support this bill. Thank you.

Rita Massey, Kihei, HI

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:31:27 PM
Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristina L Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I firmly support a full and complete ban on the Aquarium trade collectors in the state. It's not a sustainable or sensitive industry and Hawaii suffers as our beautiful creatures are exported by the hundreds of thousands, many dying before they reach their destination.

i urge our representatives to support this bill and ban aquarium collectors once and for all from our islands.

Kristina Anderson

South Kona

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:28:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:40:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregg Gruwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane,

My name is Gregg Gruwell and I speak **in strong support of HB 2154**

I first started snorkeling Kona as a tourist in the mid-1980's and moved to Kona in 1999, then to Oahu in 2002. In that time, I have regularly snorkeled from North Kohala to HÅ• naunau, as well as numerous spots on Oahu. (I am also scuba certified and a retired Naval Officer.) Most recently I spent six days snorkeling in North Kohala in April 2019.

1. From before the mid-1980s to 2001, you could walk downtown on Ali'i Drive from the King Kam to the old Kona Hilton in Kona Town and see thousands of Yellow Tang in the water with your naked eye from the sidewalk. **ALL** those fish are gone. Collected.

2. Based on my personal observation since the mid 1980's, I'd estimate that over 75% of the reef fish are gone from the Kona Coast. Even worse on Oahu. Some fish, (Pufferfish and Boxfish) I don't see anymore anywhere on the Kona Coast. From Maunalua Bay to Waikiki and the North Shore for example. Yellow Tang are seemingly gone.

3. Collectors continue to push a false narrative that there are plenty of fish. The fact is DLNR have never counted fish populations and has no real idea what % of fish has been taken.

4. DLNR has aided and abetted the fish collection industry at every turn. A fish collector was even appointed as Director of DLNR.

A DLNR scientist, Alton Miyasaka, (for years the lead scientist in charge of this fishery for DLNR) even published a guide, "Hawaii's Aquarium Fish Industry: A Business Profile", to assist Aquarium Collectors. Here is a review of the book, "A helpful guide for aquarium collectors in the 1990's. Miyasaka's small book is a business guide on how to run a fish collection operation. Licensing, shipping, etc. Written in a time when reef fish were in abundant supply and aquarium fish collection was a budding industry in Hawaii.

Miyasaka himself is an aquarium enthusiast and an collector for personal use."

(source -

https://books.google.com/books/about/Hawaii_s_Aquarium_Fish_Industry.html?id=61BGGwAACAAJ)

5. DLNR's role is to protect Hawaii's natural resources! Instead, their partnership with the collection industry has gone from a glaring conflict of interest to outright corruption.

It is finally time for the State/DLNR to do the right thing and stop all aquarium collection! At the present rate, aquarium collection along with climate change and pollution will wipe out the vast majority of these beautiful creatures. They are a huge draw of tourist revenue and there will be no turning back the clock if we wait too long!

Mahalo.

Gregg Gruwell - Honolulu

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:57:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:45:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Nix	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

Our reefs are the backbone of our oceans and our best defense against rising seas and we must protect them.

Mahalo,

Dr. John and Debra Nix, Kihei

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 10:47:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sally Lambert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB2154. It is difficult to watch our own government agency, the DLNR, allow the harvesting of marine life from our reefs. It is important that the agency expected to protect marine habitats actually does just that. We must all realize that everything is connected and to strip our reefs of sea life destroys the very environment that we and our visitors come to enjoy. In addition, the harvesting of reef fish for the aquarium pet trade removes an integral part of the reef ecosystem. Without the needed fish the reef will no longer be sustained and the effects of climate change will be much worse. We know this bill is necessary to completely stop the rampant destruction of our beautiful marine ecosystems. Please support HB2154 and keep our ocean alive and healthy!

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:20:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nancy harter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please do all you can to stop and ban the commercial aquarium fish trade in Hawaii. Our reefs are depleted and fish are at an all time low. It is time to end the commercial harvest of marine life in our islands and ban commercial aquarim collecting. Please help to make the end to this a reality.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:52:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Preserve and protect our reefs! Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:03:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alejandro Alike Aleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the ban of gathering marine life for commercial purposes as I feel we have already destabilized the natural habitat for these animals for too many years from tourist industry, overfishing and pollution, reefs destroyed by sunscreen and things of that nature, and I feel it is best if we do not continue the down that path by allowing people to further deplete any more sea animals that we already have. I think it would be more responsible to the future of the ocean if we do not allow people to harvest these creatures for commercial use. We can make money other ways, we cannot make the ocean heal, that is something it does on its own and it is our responsibility as the protectors of this world to not endanger its ability to do so and to do that I think it is best if we just let the fish and sea creatures be left alone.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 7:52:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a regular swimmer at Anini Beach on Kaua'i, I see a constant ebb and flow of reef fish. The numbers are falling and these reefs must be protected.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:07:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
benjamin garfinkle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must stop tropical fish collecting I have been diving around the world for 50 years and know first hand how this must be stopped

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:28:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caleb Merendino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 3:53:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i on O'ahu. I am writing in to say I strongly support this bill. This bill helps to end the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade that is causing detrimental harm to our coral reefs. Our reefs are the backbone of our oceans and our best defense against rising seas and we must protect them. Our natural resources are precious and needs to be protected by commercialization and should only be utilized by cultural practioners in order preserve it for future generations and sustainability of our lands and waters.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:47:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Wallace	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

the commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade benefits a very few and harms all of us.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:22:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret A Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because the aquarium trade should not be allowed to deplete our natural resource as they have. most of the fish they collect die before reaching any aquarium. The pet trade should raise their own fish.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:22:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley LeCarno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:35:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:50:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Dellinger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I hereby state my strong objection to HB 2154 Related to Enviromental Protection. I have no knowledge of DLNR or ANY verified / accredited Expert in Acquatic Resources providing substantiated research showing that properly collected tropical fish in the Hawaiian Islands has caused any negative Enviromental impact. Therefore, HB2154 appears to be unwarranted and illadvised.

If it is not broken don't fix it.

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:35:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonnetta Peters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House of Representatives,

I support bill HB2154. The rape of our ocean ecosystems by the collecting and shipping of our native reef fishes have been going on far too long. These reef fishes are a vital part of the ecology of our ocean. This practice has to stop!

Other reasons to stop this practice is the salt water aquarium industry lose a lot of its capture during shipment. Shipment of live specimens are not viable. It encourages collectors to over harvest and drives the industry and their clients to push for more.

We need to protect our resources that we depend upon to keep our oceans and environments healthy and intact. Think about the future generations and what we leave behind for them. Please pass HB2154.

Mahalo,

Jonnetta Peters

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 4:22:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Commercial harvest of marine life for the aquarium pet trade is causing detrimental harm to our coral reefs. Our reefs are the backbone of our oceans and our best defense against rising seas and we must protect them. Having fish as pets or decorations is completely unnecessary. Protecting fish and all marine life now and for the future is so much more necessary. I urge you to pass this important bill.

LATE

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HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:38:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy Dalton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen And Yamane,

My name is Judy Dalton and I speak **in strong support of HB 2154**

My wish is for you to stand with the arguments for ecological sense that warn of the perils of over fishing and of violating the undiscovered marine symbiotic networks. These fragile communities of living creatures are under unprecedented assault by direct and indirect man-made harm; 'global warming' not the least of which.

Now is the time when what might have been acceptable in days past (think whaling, think shark-fining...think '**Aquarium Trade**'!) has become no longer acceptable.

Please use your power today to make *Pono* a wrongful thing.

I would especially like to extend my gratitude to the many Big Island legislators who have already stepped forward in sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and supporting this bill, and others over time who have been trying to end this damaging and disreputable business, that is **reef wildlife collecting!**

You are of course aware of the legal efforts to impose some viable regulations and enforceability to no avail thus far. Hawaii Island remains the most flagrant hot spot in the entire state in terms of historic collection as well as *continued poaching activities!*

As an example of the scope of this activity, in one year alone (2014), more reef fish were captured and cartoned away from just twenty-five or so miles along the Kona coast, than *all of Australia's Great Barrier Reef in the same period!*

Statistics bear out the grisly nature of this enterprise which depends on industrial style supply chains to replenish constantly succumbing aquarium stocks. (Nearly every wild caught fish sent out will be dead within one year!). Such industrial style pillage completely puts the lie to the characterization by operators that this activity somehow reflects 'local style' or traditional practices.

Please pass HB 2154 as written and intended!

Mahalo,

Judy Dalton

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, February 6, 2020
Conference Room 325

RE: Testimony in support of HB2154

LATE

Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane and Committee members:

Thank you for introducing, hearing and supporting this bill.

Thank you also to all the legislators who voted to pass a bill 3 years ago to phase out the practice of reef wildlife extraction for the commercial aquarium export trade (SB1240). That bill was vetoed by the Governor despite the overwhelming public support, lack of transparency by the executive branch agency tasked with protecting public resources (for the people of Hawai'i) and pending litigation against the same executive branch agency, the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR").

I first encountered this legal issue in 2009 as a legislator, when a bill was introduced to ban the trade; the bill did not move forward that Session.

In 2015, while serving as the Director for the State of Hawai'i Office of Environmental Quality Control, I witnessed the first public discussion about the environmental impacts of the issue as the Environmental Council met to learn about potential impacts of the commercial aquarium trade on nearshore reefs. Discussion often focused on climate change and recent coral bleaching concerns.

The Environmental Council, a broad-based and diverse group of Governor appointees tasked with advising the Governor and Legislators on environmental issues, unanimously and in an unprecedented action, decided to write a letter to urge the Department of Land and Natural Resources to immediately halt the extraction of precious reef wildlife for the commercial aquarium trade until and unless an environmental review under the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) was complete.¹

¹Minutes from a September 17, 2017 Environmental Council meeting state:

"Council discussion- Council discussed this topic at length. As a public trust asset, litigation is possible. The HEPA process needs to be a tool to help issues like this incorporate environmental consideration and should not be used as a weapon. Any permitting program that hasn't gone through the environmental review process is problematic. The Council is in consensus on their concern for this issue...

Decision making and/or action plans- Mr. Shacat moved to defer the chairperson to draft a letter addressing 343 applicability to this issue and to advise DLNR on their recommendation of a moratorium on aquarium trade collecting now that Hawaii is facing an unprecedented coral bleaching event... The motion was passed with 8 ayes; no nays or abstentions." (Emphasis added.)

I was disappointed the Environmental Council did not use the word trafficking rather than trade, as the industry has been operating illegally, without first going through environmental review under HEPA for 50 years. The problem, of course, is DLNR has not only tuned a blind eye, they have given these destructive and illegal activities a stamp of government approval. As the OEQC Director, I also wrote a letter to DLNR to explain why it was critical for activities to stop, at least until HEPA requirements were met.²

The DLNR rejected the request, spent some time on PR to talk about other environmental initiatives and hired Bruce Anderson to come up with reasons that unlimited extraction of reef wildlife should continue unabated without any environmental review or transparency to the public.

After public outcry and media attention, the legislature passed a bill in 2017 to address the issue, phasing out the destructive commercial industry. The compromise bill had a huge amount of support and almost no opposition except from the trade industry group based outside Hawai'i and DLNR itself.

Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill, assuring the public that there were big plans in the works for the State to set aside protected areas and address coral bleaching. Essentially, the public was told that everything that is happening is "sustainable" (a word never defined). Somehow, the DLNR continued to maintain no environmental review was necessary even though about a million reef wildlife animals were removed and exported to be sold, if they survived, EVERY YEAR. (This includes baby sharks, octopus, feather dusters, hermit crabs — pretty much everything except live coral and rock can be removed.)

Shortly after the Governor vetoed the compromise bill, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the State Executive branch (DLNR) had totally failed to comply with HEPA, as required by law. The Court ordered all commercial aquarium collection activities to stop until and unless HEPA review was complete.

DLNR has clearly failed to follow the law despite other agency advice, the statutes themselves and an order by the highest court in the State. They have tried hard to keep this secret from the public. In fact, even the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council were under the erroneous impression that DLNR was complying with the Hawai'i Supreme Court Order, as the Chair stated in the published 2017 Annual Report.³

DLNR has done something more outrageous than ever and in total contradiction of what they had said through the Governor's veto message of SB1240 in 2017, not to mention the Hawaii Supreme Court order in *Umberger v. Department of Land and Natural Resources* (2017).

² See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2015/10/emergency-moratorium-on-collecting-aquarium-fish-demanded/> for more information.

³The Environmental Council's 2016 Annual Report provided information regarding Hawai'i's commercial aquarium fisheries program, including previous correspondence between the Environmental Council, the Office of Environmental Quality Control, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Since then, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued a decision on the *Umberger vs. DLNR* lawsuit. That decision has effectively halted the commercial aquarium fishery in Hawai'i until an environmental review is conducted by the permittees pursuant to HRS Chapter 343." State Environmental Council 2017 Annual Report, emphasis added.

DLNR decided that commercial collection of reef wildlife could continue unabated (except in West Hawaii, where a permit is required by a separate law) without any HEPA review by alleging it was OK for commercial collectors to extract as much reef wildlife as they want if they have a commercial license to sell and don't use a small mesh net (as if anyone is checking).

It's the worst of all worlds for reef wildlife: previously, DLNR asserted that small mesh nets were appropriate technology as they minimize impacts on the reef, now they allow all technology except a small mesh net to try to create a colorable argument to get around the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruling in *Umberger v. Department of Land and Natural Resources* (2017).

Let me re-cap what the Executive Branch has done to our Conservation areas, the nearshore waters 0-3 miles offshore, what used to be abundant with reef resources, the "bread basket" for local families for thousands of years:

- Over 50 years ago, the State Executive Branch allowed commercial aquarium collectors to extract unlimited reef wildlife without going through any environmental review and in violation of HEPA.
- 2015: the State Executive Branch ignored the Environmental Council's warning and recommendation that DLNR issue an emergency moratorium on reef wildlife extraction until and unless HEPA was complied with and coral bleaching impacts in particular examined.
- June 2017: the Executive Branch testified against and then vetoed the Legislature's bill to phase out the destructive industry (SB1240 veto).
- October 2017: the Executive Branch ignored the state's highest court by deciding unlimited commercial collection could continue under a license scheme (as opposed the the previously set up permit scheme).

- And that's the status quo.

It is time to end this madness and strip the Executive Branch of any authority it has to authorize profiteering from the capture, extraction and export of Hawai'i reef wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jessica Wooley

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:06:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Kapuamailani Kaulia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Suzanne Kapuamailani Kaulia. I am in support of HB2154 because I feel that the environment needs our support to protect them. These wildlife animals have no voice to address the concerns of their population depletion. If people keep taking them from our reefs to sell and/or put into aquariums, there will be no reef wildlife left. We need to preserve and conserve reef wildlife in order for these species to thrive and not go endangered or more so, extinct! Unfortunately, some species have gone endangered and extinct, due to various careless, greedy, self-serving human nature acts done by a majority of all humanity. Please pass HB2154 into law so that we are able to better protect the reef wildlife species.

Mahalo,

Kapua

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:58:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2154. Hawaii needs to protect our ocean resources while we still can. Mahalo.

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HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:19:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Charles Young. I am supporting this HB2154 to prohibit aquarium fish collection. I live in Kealia S. Kona and was one of the founding members of the West Hawaii Fishery Council and I continue to support sustainable marine resource management. I have testified before that Aquarium fish collecting does not align with our values. Fish that are part of our traditional food source are being collected. Our community has long opposed the practice of Aquarium Fish collecting as harmful to our food source and detrimental to our customary gathering practices. As the DLNR and the communities move forward to improve Hawaii's marine resource management practices and adopt more sustainable practices such as those developed by the native Hawaiians, the aquarium fish collecting trade flies in the face of such practices. It's extractive and does not serve to support the needs of the community.

Mahalo

Charles Young

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:20:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Mader	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Simply put: Hawai'i's reefs NEED these creatures, now more than ever before. Reducing the impacts of ocean heat waves and coral bleaching and loss requires greater resilience, and increasing abundance of important species. YOU can help make this happen.

Mahalo

Deborah Mader

Kihei, HI

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:33:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:20:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:14:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why are we allowing our natural resources to be taken for profit? Removing the fish from the reef impacts the entire reef eco-system. And most of the fish they take do not survive, either die sooner or later in a pet store or in someones aquarium. These people, collectors, have shown they do not care at all about their impact on the reef or environment. If similar activities were taking place on land everyone would be up in arms, protesting etc... Stop this before some of our endemic species become extinct! Stop allowing them to rape our reefs for profit!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:33:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:08:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:56:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer valentine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i's reefs NEED these creatures, now more than ever before. Reducing the impacts of ocean heat waves and coral bleaching and loss requires greater resilience, and increasing abundance of important species.

LATE

LATE

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:17:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB2154 to protect Hawaii's reef wildlife from the global aquarium pet trade industry.

I understand that Hawaii's aquatic life makes up some of the most high demand species for use in aquariums. Captive-bred or aquacultured reef fish are the sustainable option for use as aquarium pets. Our ocean life should not be for sale, as reef life contributes overwhelmingly to the health of our ocean ecosystem. Relieve the pillaging and resulting pressure on our natural reef ecosystem and restrict the commercial fishing industry to captive-bred species instead. There is no good reason NOT to protect our ocean systems and reef life from commercial aquarium fishers except that commercial entities can gain financially from selling off nature. Aquarium trade is taking too much from our oceans and is harming our ocean for the sole purpose of ornamentalizing human lives with colorful fish. Let's be truthful - that is disgusting!

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:58:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2154. Commercial harvesting of reef fish for aquariums is harmful for our coral reefs and it should be discontinued.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:06:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:47:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Harvesting fish harms fish and coral.

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 5:41:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2154

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:45:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jackie Moore-Andresen, PHR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: